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A CANDID DISQUISITION OF THE PRINCIPLES and PRACTICES OF THE MOST Antient and Honourable SOCIETY of

Free and Accepted Masons;

TOGETHER WITH

Some STRICTURES on the ORIGIN, NATURE, and DESIGN of that INSTITUTION.

Dedicated, by Permission,

TO THE MOST NOBLE AND MOST WORSHIPFUL
HENRY DUKE of BEAUFORT, &c. &c.
GRAND MASTER.

By *WELLINS CALCOTT*, P. M.

——— ——— AB IPSO
DUCIT OPES ANIMUMQUE FERRO. *Hor. Od.*

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DEDICATION.

To the moſt puiſſant and noble PRINCE
HENRY SOMERSET,
Duke of Beaufort; Marquis and Earl of Worceſter and Glamorgan; Viſcount Groſmont; Baron Herbert; Lord of Ragland, Chepſtow, and Gower; and Baron Beaufort of Caldecot Caſtle, Moſt Worſhipful Grand-Maſter of the moſt Antient and Honourable SOCIETY of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS in ENGLAND.

May it pleaſe your GRACE.

THE following ſheets tending to inculcate the exalted principles of benevolence, univerſal harmony and unlimited charity, have a peculiar claim to your Grace's patronage and protection, who ſo zealouſly and ſucceſsfully have ſupported and diffuſed the bleſſings of our laudable inſtitution. Honours! derived from ſuch a ſource, and eſtabliſhed on a conſtant adherence to ſuch excellent deſigns, can never fade.

And

And while they endear your Grace to every humane heart, muſt alſo inſpire the friends to our ſociety, with the moſt lively ſentiments of gratitude and pleaſure, both for your Grace's attention and known goodneſs to particular Brethren, and your readineſs to propoſe and adopt every meaſure, calculated to add dignity to our eſtabliſhment, and give energy and authority to its laws.

This glorious proſpect gives us the fulleſt hopes, that under your Grace's illuſtrious patronage, the benign ſentiments of charity and the indiſpenſible duty of promoting the general welfare of mankind, will be more univerſally and extenſively received.

Encouraged by theſe conſiderations, I flatter myſelf your Grace will forgive my endeavour to ſecure permanency to the following ſheets by prefixing a name, which muſt be revered by every friend to the intereſt of humanity, and the benevolent intentions of our inſtitution, till time and Maſonry ſhall be no more.

May it pleaſe your GRACE,

Your GRACE's moſt dutiful,

And devoted humble ſervant,

WELLINS CALCOTT.

A

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The Maſters Lodge, the firſt Friday in every Month, at the ſame Place.

The Firſt Lodge, the ſecond Wedneſday Evening in each Month, at the Royal Exchange, King-ſtreet.

The Second Lodge, the third Wedneſday, at the Bunch of Grapes.

The Riſing Sun Lodge, the fourth Wedneſday, at the Britiſh Coffee-Houſe.

Under the Juriſdiction of The Moſt Worſhipful JOSEPH WARREN, Eſq; viz.

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The

LODGES.

The Lodge of St. Andrew, the ſecond Thurſday in each Month, at ſaid Hall.

The Lodge of Maſſachuſetts, No. 2. the firſt Monday in each Month, at Concert-Hall, near Queen-ſtreet.

Under the Juriſdiction of the Right Worſhipful and moſt Noble JOHN DUKE and MARQUIS of ATHOLL, &c. &c.

Antient York, No. 169. the firſt and third Tueſday in every Month, at Mr. Alexander's, Battery-March.

IN-

A. MERCER

INTRODUCTION.

IF we duly consider MAN, we shall find him a *social* being; and in effect, such is his nature, that he cannot well subsist alone. For out of *society* he could neither preserve life, display or perfect his faculties and talents, nor retain any real or solid happiness.

Had not the GOD of nature intended him for society, he would never have formed him subject to such a variety of wants and infirmities. This would have been highly inconsistent with divine wisdom, or the regularity of omniscience; on the contrary, the very necessities of human nature unite men together, and fix them in a state of mutual dependence on one another. For select the most perfect and accomplished of the human

race, a HERCULES or a SAMSON, a BACON or a BOYLE, a LOCKE or a NEWTON; nay, we need not except SOLOMON himſelf, and ſuppoſe him fixed alone, even in this happy country, where nature, from her bounteous ſtores, ſeems to have formed another *Eden*, and we ſhould ſoon find him deplorably wretched; and by being deſtitute of a ſocial intercourſe, deprived of every ſhadow of happineſs.

Therefore, for the eſtabliſhment of our felicity, providence in its general ſyſtem with regard to the government of this world, has ordained a reciprocal connexion between all the various parts of it, which cannot ſubſiſt without a mutual dependence; and from the human ſpecies, down to the loweſt parts of the creation, one chain unites all nature. This is excellently obſerved, and beautifully deſcribed, by a late celebrated poet, in the following lines:

God in the nature *of each being founds*
Its proper *bliſs, and ſets its* proper *bounds*;
But as he form'd a whole, *the* whole *to bleſs,*
On mutual wants *built mutual happineſs.*
So from the firſt eternal order *ran,*
And creature link'd to creature, man to man.

POPE.

Under theſe circumſtances, men muſt of neceſſity form aſſociations for their comfort and defence, as well as for their very exiſtence.

Had

Had revelation been altogether ſilent in this point, yet we might by the mere light of nature have eaſily diſcovered it to be our duty to be *kindly affectionate one to another*. No ſyſtem can be more agreeable to the common ſentiments of mankind, nothing built upon ſurer terms of equity and reaſon, than that I ſhould treat my fellow-creature with the ſame candour and benevolence, with the ſame affection and ſincerity I ſhould expect myſelf. It is true this was not delivered in expreſs words till the time of *Moſes*, nor ſo fully explained and underſtood as at the coming of the prophets. Yet we have great reaſon to believe that it was the firſt law revealed to *Adam*, immediately upon his fall, and was a genuine precept of uncorrupted human nature. That every one is naturally an enemy to his neighbour, was the malevolent aſſertion of a late *philoſopher* [HOBBS;] one who vainly thinking himſelf deeper verſed in the principles of man than any before him, and having miſerably corrupted his own mind by many wild extravagancies, concluded, from ſuch acquired corruption, that all men were naturally the ſame. How to reconcile a tenet of this kind with the juſtice and goodneſs of a ſupreme Being, ſeems a taſk too difficult for the moſt knowing perſon to execute; and what the author himſelf was contented barely to lay down, without the leaſt ſhew of argument in its defence. That God ſhould be a being of infinite juſtice, creating us

in a *neceſſary* ſtate of *dependence* on, and at the ſame time bring us into the world with inclinations of enmity and cruelty towards each other, is a contradiction ſo palpable, as no man can aſſert conſiſtently with a reverential notion of his Maker. And were there no ſufficient proofs againſt it, even from our imperfect ideas of the Creator, the very laws of nature would confute it.

By the law of nature, I would be underſtood to mean, that will of God which is diſcoverable to us by the light of reaſon without the aſſiſtance of revelation. Now nothing is more evident than this grand maxim, That whatever principles and actions have an inſeparable connexion with the public happineſs, and are neceſſary to the well-being of ſociety; are fundamental laws of nature, and bear the ſtamp of divine authority.

This will more evidently appear from the following conſideration: When the GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE had, with the greateſt wiſdom and moſt exact proportion, formed this globe, and repleniſhed it with every thing neceſſary for life and ornament, he laſt of all created *man*, after his own image, enduing him with rational and immortal powers, adequate to the preſent and future happineſs for which he was deſigned.

But though he found himſelf in paradiſe where every thing abounded for his ſuſtenance and delight,

light, yet for want of a creature of the same rational nature with himself, his felicity was incompleat; so much did the innate ideas of society* possess and influence the human mind from its first existence, that the highest enjoyments without participation, were tasteless and unaffecting *; a strong proof that even in the original state of human nature, selfish and narrow principles had no share; and that to communicate blessings was to increase them. To gratify his wishes, enlarge his mind, and establish his (before imperfect) happiness, God created an help meet for him, "*Woman*, his *last best* gift;" thereby enabling him to exchange the solitary for the *social* life; an imperfect for a perfect bliss! Now the human mind began to expand; a new train of ideas and affections succeeded; its joys were increased, and its wishes accomplished. These dispositions were continued with the species, and *man* has ever since had recourse to *society* as an essential means to humanize his heart and meliorate the enjoyments of life.

But, alas! he being created *free* in the exertion of the faculties, both of body and mind;

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* Our grandsire *Adam*, ere of *Eve* possest,
Alone, and e'en in Paradise unblest,
With mournful look the blissful scene survey'd
And wander'd in the solitary shade;
The Maker saw, took pity, and bestow'd
Woman, the last, the best reserve of God!

and theſe faculties being vitiated by ſin in our firſt parents, the taint became hereditary, and ſoon broke out in ſymptoms which foreboded deſtruction to the peace and happineſs of the world. *Cain* furniſhed an early and terrible inſtance of the truth of this aſſertion, when of the firſt two brothers that ever were on earth, one fell a victim to the envious fury of the other, and demonſtrated that a train of new paſſions had taken poſſeſſion of the human heart. *Envy*, *hatred*, and *revenge* now made there appearance, and *bloodſhed* and *diſcord* followed. Ties of *conſanguinity* firſt cemented mankind; but after the ſons of *Noah* had rendered the earth more populous, and the confuſion of languages had ſeparated one family from another, vice and impiety boldly reared their heads. Therefore, to remedy theſe dreadful evils, and avert their conſequences, the uniting various men and different orders in the bands of friendſhip, ſeemed the beſt and ſureſt method; and was indeed the greateſt and moſt effectual defence againſt the univerſal depravity of corrupted human nature: It was *here* alone protection could be had, from the attacks of violence, or the inſinuations of fraud, from the force of brutal ſtrength, or the ſnares of guilty deſign.

Further to promote theſe ends, and ſecure ſuch bleſſings, *laws* were now neceſſarily introduced for the ſafety and advantage of every individual; and of their good effect *we* in this

nation

nation ought to be better judges than the whole world beſides, for *ours*, we may extol, as St. *Paul* expreſſes himſelf, "In confidence of boaſting."

If we confine ourſelves to *particular* parts of ſociety, and treat on bodies of men, who, though members of, and ſubordinate to the general ſyſtem, unite themſelves into diſtinct communities, for their own immediate advantage, and relatively for the public benefit, we ſhall find ſome entering into ſuch aſſociations upon different views, and to anſwer various purpoſes. We, of this nation in particular, fear no enemy at our gates, no violence from our neighbours, and I hope no treachery from our friends; but aſſemble with men of ſimilar opinions and manners, not out of neceſſity for the preſervation of our lives, but to render them more beneficial to others and pleaſing to ourſelves*; by enabling us to perform thoſe duties, and afford that aſſiſtance to each other in a *united* capacity, which as *individuals* we were unable to do.

To this kind of aſſociations, I ſhall confine myſelf in the following work; and ſhall treat on the ancient inſtitution of *Free and Accepted Maſons* in particular; an eſtabliſhment founded on the benevolent intentions of extending and confirming mutual happineſs, upon the beſt and trueſt principles of *moral* and *ſocial* virtue.

For

For among many inſtances of the above truth, apparent to every intelligent perſon, let us reflect that in all ſocieties and governments there are ſome indigent and miſerable, whom *we* are taught to regard as objects of our compaſſion and our bounty; it is our indiſpenſible duty, to aid ſuch with our councel, commiſerate their afflictions, and relieve them in their diſtreſs.

'Tis what the happy to th' unhappy owe,
For what man gives, the gods on him beſtow.
POPE.

This principle is the *bond of peace*, and the *cement of maſonic affection*. Free Maſons eſteem it as a virtue of the moſt diffuſive nature, not to be confined to particular perſons, but extended to the whole human race, to adminiſter aſſiſtance to whom, is their higheſt pride and their utmoſt wiſh, eſtabliſhing friendſhips and forming connexions, not by receiving, but conferring benefits. As ſoon might the builder *alone* work through each tedious courſe of an edifice without the aſſiſtance of his fellow-crafts-men, as poor *helpleſs, unaſſiſted* man, toil through each chequered ſtage of human life.

The Almighty has therefore furniſhed men with different capacities, and bleſſed them with various powers, that they may be mutually beneficial and ſerviceable to each other; and

indeed

indeed wherever we turn our eyes and thoughts, we ſhall find ſcope ſufficient to employ thoſe capacities, and exerciſe thoſe powers, agreeable to the celebrated maxim of the great *Socratic* diſciple, *that we are not born for ourſelves alone.*

That we may not be too much elevated with the contemplation of our own abundance, we ſhould *conſider* no man comes into this world without *imperfections*; that we may not decline being ſerviceable to our fellow-creatures, we ſhould *reflect*, that all have their portion for *improvement*; that we may not be remiſs or reluctant in good offices, we ſhould remind ourſelves, however affluent our fortune, we are not entirely *independent of others*, and where much is given, much will be required. We are commanded to be fruitful in good works; and throughout the whole creation we ſhall find no precedent for inutility or indolence, for he that contributes neither ſtudy, labour, or fortune to the public, is a deſerter of the community. All human affections, if directed by the governing principle of reaſon, tend to promote ſome uſeful purpoſe. *Compaſſion*, if properly exerted, is the moſt beneficent of all human virtues, extending itſelf to a greater number of objects, exciting more laſting degrees of happineſs, than any other. *Some* affections are indeed more fierce and violent, but *their* action, like a ſudden exploſion of combuſtibles, is no ſooner begun than its force is ſpent.

The rational, the manly pleaſure, which neceſſarily accompanies *compaſſion*, can only be known to thoſe who have experienced its effects; for who ever relieved the indigent, and did not at the ſame time receive the higheſt gratification? To ſee a fellow-creature labouring in agony and pain, or ſtruggling under the oppreſſive burthen of helpleſſneſs and want, preſently raiſes pity in the human breaſt, induces us to ſympathize with the object in his diſtreſs, and inſpires us with the tender diſpoſitions of *charity* and aſſiſtance.

If our pleaſure was to be eſtimated in proportion to its extent and duration, that of doing good muſt rival and outſhine all others the mind is ſuſceptible of, being both from its nature, and the variety of objects on which it acts, greatly ſuperior to the fleeting and unſatisfactory enjoyment ariſing from the gratifying our ſenſual appetites. Hence *compaſſion*, both on account of its duration, from its pleaſing effects, and its unbounded utility to the world, ought to be highly valued and duly cultivated by all who conſult their own felicity, or the proſperity and intereſt of that country or people to which they belong.

It would be abſurd to dwell longer on this head, as I am addreſſing a body who in every age, from the earlieſt times to this preſent day, have been juſtly celebrated for their diſintereſted liberality, and whoſe proceedings have been con-

conſtantly directed by the deſires of doing good to, and promoting the happineſs of every individual.

From the foregoing conſiderations, the neceſſity of conſtituting particular ſocieties, is ſtrikingly obvious: For, next to the veneration of the ſupreme Being, the love of mankind ſeems to be the moſt promiſing ſource of real ſatisfaction: It is a never-failing one to him, who, poſſeſt of this principle, enjoys alſo the means of indulging it; and who makes the ſuperiority of his fortune, his knowledge, or his power, ſubſervient to the wants of his fellow-creatures. It is true, there are few whoſe abilities or fortunes are ſo adapted to the neceſſities and infirmities of human nature, as to render them capable of performing *works* of *univerſal beneficence*, but a *ſpirit* of *univerſal benevolence* may be exerciſed by all; and the bounteous Father of nature has not proportioned the pleaſure to the greatneſs of the *effect*, but to the greatneſs of the *cauſe*. Here let not my meaning be miſtaken; I would not be underſtood, to inſinuate that we are ſo obliged to be bountiful that *nothing* will excuſe us; for it is an univerſal maxim among *Maſons*, that "*Juſtice muſt precede charity*;" and, except where the exigencies of the diſtreſſed call for IMMEDIATE relief, we ſhould always recollect our *natural connexions* and *debts to the world*, whenever our diſpoſitions may prompt us to beſtow any *ſingular* bounty. And give me leave to obſerve, it is not the idle, in-

indolent or extravagant, but the induſtrious, though diſtreſſed Brother, who has a juſt title to our extraordinary beneficence; a circumſtance that ought always to direct the exertion of the above virtue.

Having thus, in ſome meaſure, deduced the nature and neceſſity of *ſociety*, and in part ſhewn the duties incumbent upon us as members of it. May we, as upright men and Maſons, faithfully diſcharge the duties of our various ſtations; and above all, be ever ready to do to others as we could in their circumſtances reaſonably wiſh to be done unto.

They who move in a higher ſphere, have indeed a larger province wherein to do good; but thoſe of an inferior degree will be as eminently diſtinguiſhed in the manſions of bliſs (if they move *regularly*, if they are *uſeful* members of ſociety) as the higheſt. He who performs his part beſt, not he who perſonates an exalted character, will meet with applauſe. For the *moon*, though it borrows its light from the *ſun*, alſo ſets forth the glory of God; and the flowers of the field declare a Providence equally with the ſtars of the firmament.

To conclude then, let me exhort all my worthy Brethren to be diligent in the cultivation of every *moral* and *ſocial* virtue, for ſo long only do we act conſiſtently with the principles of our venerable inſtitution. Then what has been ſaid, though on an occaſion far more important to

mankind,

mankind, may not improperly be appropriated as the badge of our reſpectable order, " By this ſhall all men know that you belong to the *Brethren* if your hearts glow with affection, not to *Maſons* alone, but to the whole race of mankind." And well indeed may *ours* be called a happy inſtitution, whoſe ſupreme wiſh is founded on the trueſt ſource of felicity, and whoſe warmeſt endeavours are ever exerted in cementing the ties of human nature by acts of benevolence, charity and ſocial affection: And who, amidſt the corruption and immorality of the latter ages, have maintained in their aſſemblies the genuine principles and unſullied reputation acquired and eſtabliſhed in the firſt.

Whilſt qualities like theſe direct your proceedings and influence your actions, FREE MASONRY muſt ever be revered and cultivated, by the juſt, the good, and the exalted mind, as the ſureſt means of eſtabliſhing *peace, harmony, and good will amongſt men.*

A

DISQUISITION,

&c. &c. &c.

THE antiquity and utility of FREE-MASONRY, being generally acknowledged in moſt parts of the habitable globe, it would be as abſurd to conceive it required new aids for its ſupport, as for him who has the uſe of ſight to demand a proof of the *riſing* and *ſetting* of the ſun.* Nevertheleſs, in compliance with the requeſts of many worthy Brethren, I ſhall lay before my readers ſome ſtrictures

* *Clear as this Natural Philosophical or Astronomical Truth would seem to all Men, that what we call the Rising & Setting of the Sun, was not owing to any Revolution or Disposition of that Luminary but the motion of that Globe which we inhabit.*

ſtrictures on the *origin, nature* and *deſign* of that INSTITUTION; and with prudent reſerve confute and avert the many ſhameful and idle falſehoods which are induſtriouſly propagated by its enemies, the better to inform the candid and well-meaning, who might not readily know how to inveſtigate the truth, or want leiſure and opportunity for that purpoſe.

With this view I have made it my buſineſs to collect a great number of paſſages from writers eminent for their learning and probity, where I thought they might ſerve to illuſtrate my ſubject. The propriety of ſuch proceeding is too obvious to need any apology.

If our firſt parent and his offspring had continued in the terreſtrial paradiſe, they would have had no occaſion for mechanic arts, or any of the ſciences now in uſe; ADAM being created with all thoſe perfections and bleſſings, which could either add to his dignity, or be conducive to his real welfare: In that happy period he had no propenſity to evil, no perverſeneſs in his heart, no darkneſs or obſcurity in his underſtanding; for had he laboured under theſe maladies he would not have been a *perfect man*, nor would there be any difference betwixt man in a ſtate of innocence, and in a ſtate of degeneracy and corruption. It was therefore in conſequence of his wilful tranſgreſſion that any evils came upon him. And having loſt his innocence, he in that dreadful moment forfeited likewiſe his ſuper-

natural

natural lights and infuſed knowledge, whereby every ſcience (as far as human nature is capable of) was rendered familiar to him without the tedious labour of ratiocination, requiſite to men even of the greateſt abilities, whoſe ideas after all remain weak and imperfect.

From this remarkable and fatal æra, we date the neceſſity and origin of the ſciences. Firſt aroſe divinity, whereby was pointed out to fallen man the ways and will of God, the omnipotence and mercy of an offended Creator: Then law*, as directing us to diſtribute juſtice to our neighbour, and relieve thoſe who are oppreſſed or ſuffer wrong. The royal art was beyond all doubt coeval with the above ſciences, and was carefully handed down by Methuſelah, who dyed but a few days before the general deluge, and who had lived 245 years with ADAM, by whom he was inſtructed in all the myſteries of this ſublime ſcience, which he faithfully communicated to his grandſon NOAH, who tranſmitted it to po-

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* No ſooner had ADAM tranſgreſſed the divine command, than we find him cited to appear before the ALMIGHTY JUDGE. When, ſelf-accuſed, after hearing his defence, ſentence was pronounced upon him; a method of proceeding in *that* ſcience, which has been adopted in criminal caſes, by the more enlightened nations, from that period, and example down to the preſent day.

ſterity. And it has ever been preſerved with a veneration and prudence ſuitable to its great importance, being always confined to the knowledge of the worthy only. This is confirmed by many inſtances, which men of reading and ſpeculation eſpecially ſuch as are of this ſociety cannot ſuffer to eſcape them.

At firſt mankind adhered to the leſſons of nature; ſhe uſed neceſſity for the means, urged them to invention, and aſſiſted them in the operation. Our primitive fathers ſeeing the natural face of the earth was not ſufficient for the ſuſtenance of the animal creation, had recourſe to their faithful tutoreſs, who taught them how to give it an artificial face, by creating habitations and cultivating the ground; and theſe operations among other valuable effects, led them to ſearch into and contemplate upon the nature and properties of lines, figures, ſuperfices and ſolids; and by degrees, to form the ſciences of geometry and architecture, which have been of the greateſt utility to the human ſpecies. Hence we were firſt taught the means whereby we might attain practice, and by practice introduce ſpeculation.

From the flood to the days of King Solomon, the liberal arts and ſciences gradually ſpread themſelves over different parts of the globe; every nation having had ſome ſhare in their propagation; but according to their different manners, ſome

have

have cultivated them with more accuracy, perſeverance and ſucceſs than others ; and though the ſecrets of the royal art, have not been indiſcriminately revealed, they have nevertheleſs been communicated in every age to ſuch as were worthy to receive them.

But I am not at liberty to undraw the curtain and publicly diſcant on this head: It is ſacred and ever will remain ſo; thoſe who are honoured with the truſt, will not reveal it except to the truly qualified Brother, and they who are ignorant of it cannot betray it.

I ſhall however obſerve, that this art was called royal, not only becauſe it was originally practiſed by Kings * and Princes, who were the firſt profeſſors of it, but likewiſe on account of the ſuperiority which ſo ſublime a ſcience gave its diſciples, over the reſt of mankind.

This ſupreme and divine knowledge being derived from the ALMIGHTY CREATOR to

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* The celebrated SELDEN tells us, that civil ſociety, begining firſt in particular families, under œconomick rule, repreſenting what is now a common-wealth, had in its ſtate, the huſband, father, and maſter, as King (SELDEN's works, tom. 3, col. 927) And in ABRAHAM's treaty, with the ſons of HETH, for a burying place for SARAH, they ſtile him a mighty Prince ; as indeed he was (Gen. xxiii. v. 6) In a word, not only ADAM, but all the ſucceeding patriarchs, as well before as after the flood, had by the law of nature kingly power over their reſpective families.

ADAM its principles ever ſince have been and ſtill are moſt ſacredly preſerved and inviolably concealed. For as all things in proceſs of time are liable to decay and corruption, the antient profeſſors wiſely foreſeeing the great abuſes which their exalted myſteries might ſuſtain, if generally made known, determined to confine the knowledge of them only to ſelect Brethren, men whom they had found by long experience to be well verſed in the general principles of the ſociety, and who were eminent for their piety, learning and abilities.

Hence it is that a man may be ſufficiently able to acquit himſelf in every teſt that is laid down by our preſent inſtitution, to prove his regular initiation therein, and alſo to ſhew that he is not unacquainted with its general principles, and yet at the ſame time he may be totally ignorant and undeſerving of the more valuable parts of the antient ſociety. Theſe, like the aduta of the antient temples, are hid from vulgar eyes. It is not every one who is barely initiated into Free-Maſonry, that is entruſted with all the great myſteries thereto belonging: They are not attainable as things of courſe, nor by every capacity; for as Mr. LOCKE very juſtly obſerves (ſpeaking of this ſociety) "Though all have a right and opportunity (if they be worthy and able to learn) to know all the arts and myſteries belonging to it, yet that is not the caſe, as ſome want

capacity

capacity, and others induſtry to acquire them." Nevertheleſs, ſuch is the real felicity, neceſſarily reſulting from a knowledge and practice of the general principles of this fraternity, as alone was ever found ſufficient to intitle it to a preference of all other human inſtitutions.

From the earlieſt ages of antiquity, the royal art was ever taught with the greateſt circumſpection, not in ſchools or academies, to a promiſcuous audience, but was confined to certain families; the rulers of which inſtructed their children or diſciples, and by this means conveyed their myſterious knowledge to poſterity.

After the flood, the profeſſors of this art (according to antient traditions) were firſt diſtinguiſhed by the name of Noachidæ (or ſons of NOAH) afterwards by that of ſages or wiſe men, (men inſtructed as MOSES in all the wiſdom of the Egyptians) Chaldeans, philoſophers, maſters in Iſrael, &c. and were ever venerated as ſacred perſons. They conſiſted of perſons of the brighteſt parts and genius, who exerted their utmoſt abilities in diſcovering and inveſtigating the various myſteries of nature, from whence to draw improvements and inventions of the moſt uſeful conſequences. Men whoſe talents were not only employed in ſpeculation, or in private acts of beneficence; but who were alſo public bleſſings to the age and country in which they lived, poſſeſſed with moderate deſires, who

knew

knew to conquer their paſſions; practiſers and teachers of the pureſt morality, and ever exerting themſelves to promote the harmony and felicity of ſociety. They were therefore conſulted from all parts, and venerated with that ſincere homage which is never paid but to real merit, and the greateſt and wiſeſt potentates on earth eſteemed it an addition to their imperial dignities, to be enrolled among ſuch bright ornaments of human nature.

A principal excellence which rendered them famous among men, was taciturnity, which in a peculiar manner they practiſed and inculcated as neceſſary for concealing from the unworthy what few were qualified to learn, and ſtill fewer to teach.

In the firſt ages of the world, ſcience was in a low ſtate; becauſe the uncultivated manners of our forefathers rendered them in general incapable of that knowledge which their poſterity have ſo amply enjoyed: The profeſſors of the royal art, therefore, found it abſolutely requiſite, to exclude the more unworthy and barbarous part of mankind from their aſſemblies, and to conceal their myſteries under ſuch * hieroglyphicks, ſym-

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* Hieroglyphicks are properly emblems or ſigns of divine, ſacred, or ſupernatural things, by which they are diſtinguiſhed from common ſymbols, which are ſigns of ſenſible or na-

bols

bols, allegory and figures, as they alone could explain (even at this day it is indiſpenſible in us, to prevent future bad conſequences, by concealing from vulgar eyes the means uſed by them to unfold ſuch myſteries) wherefore the greateſt caution was ever obſerved at their meetings, that no unqualified perſon might enter amongſt them; and every method was employed to tyle them ſecurely, and conceal the real intent and deſign of their convocations.

In order to render their proceedings more edifying and extenſively uſeful, charges were delivered at certain times, as well for regulating the conduct of the fraternity, as preſerving that mark of diſtinction, which their ſuperior merit juſtly entitled them to.

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tural things. HERMES TRISMEGISTUS is commonly eſteemed the inventor of hieroglyphicks; he firſt introduced them into heathen theology, from whence they have been tranſplanted into the Jewiſh and Chriſtian.

Sacred things, ſays HIPPOCRATES, ſhould only be communicated to ſacred perſons. Hence it was, that the antient Egyptians communicated to none but their Kings and Prieſts, and thoſe who were to ſucceed to the prieſthood and the crown, the ſecrets of nature and the myſteries of their morality and hiſtory; and this they did by a kind of *cabalա*, which, at the ſame time that it inſtructed them, only amuſed the reſt of the people. Hence the uſe of hieroglyphicks, or myſtick figures, to veil their morality, politicks &c. from profane eyes. SPON.

Several

Several of thoſe antient orations are ſtill extant, by which it appears, that among others, one of their principles was to inculcate by precept, and inforce by example, a ſtrict obſervance of the moral law, as the chief means of ſupporting government and authority. And it is evident that they thereby effected their purpoſe, and ſecured to themſelves the favour, reſpect, and eſteem of the world in general; and, notwithſtanding the indolence and ignorance of ſome ages, the various countries, languages, ſects, and parties, through which Maſonry has paſſed, always ſubjected to the neceſſity of oral tradition, and under the numerous diſadvantages with which the Maſters of the royal art had to ſtruggle in the courſe of many centuries, ſtill does it retain, in a great degree, its original perfection :—A circumſtance that not only bears honourable teſtimony of intrinſick worth, but is highly to the praiſe of thoſe to whom this important truſt has been from time to time committed.

After this conciſe and general account of the antient profeſſors of the royal art, and the ſublime truths which they were poſſeſſed of, and were by them tranſmitted down to poſterity in the manner before deſcribed, we will proceed to the building of that glorious edifice, at which period this ſociety became a regular and uniform inſtitution, under the denomination

mination of Free and Accepted Maſons, whoſe cuſtoms and proceedings I ſhall deſcribe, as far as may be neceſſary and prudent.

Though the almighty and eternal JEHOVAH has no occaſion for a temple, or houſe to dwell in, for the heaven of heavens is not capable of containing his immenſity, yet it was his divine will, that a tabernacle ſhould be erected for him in the wilderneſs by MOSES, and afterwards a temple by SOLOMON, at Jeruſalem, as his ſanctuary; both of which were to be conſtructed, not according to human invention, but after a pattern which the Lord himſelf had given. The whole model of the tabernacle was ſhewn to MOSES on mount Sinai; (Exod. xxv. ver. 9.) and the pattern of the temple was likewiſe given to DAVID by the hand of the Lord, and by him delivered to SOLOMON his ſon. (1 Chron. xxviii. ver. 11.)

The tabernacle might be conſidered as the palace of the moſt High, the dwelling of the God of Iſrael; wherein the Iſraelites, during their journeyings in the wilderneſs, performed the chief of their religious exerciſes, offered their ſacrifices, and worſhipped God*. It was thirty cubits in length, ten in breadth, and ten in height; it was divided into two partitions, the firſt was called *the holy place*, which was twenty cubits long, and ten wide: Here were placed the table of

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* The tabernacle was erected about A. L. 2513.

ſhew-bread, the golden candleſtick, and the golden altar of incenſe. The ſecond was called *the moſt holy place*, whoſe length was ten cubits, and breadth ten cubits, wherein, before the building of the temple, the ark of the covenant was kept, which was a ſymbol of God's gracious preſence with the Jewiſh church. The moſt holy place was divided from the holy place by a curtain or veil of very rich cloth, which hung upon four pillars of Shittim wood, that were covered with plates of gold, (Exod. xxvi. ver. 31. Heb. ix. ver. 23.)

The temple erected by SOLOMON (which was built after the model of the tabernacle) at Jeruſalem, had its foundation laid in the year of the world 2992, before CHRIST 1008, before the vulgar æra 1012; and it was finiſhed A. L. 3000, and dedicated 3001, before CHRIST 999, before the vulgar æra 1003. The glory of this temple did not conſiſt in the magnitude of its dimenſions; for though it was twice as long and capacious every way as the tabernacle, yet, alone, it was but a ſmall pile of building. The main grandeur and excellency were in its ornaments; the workmanſhip being every where exceeding curious, and the overlayings prodigious: In its materials, being built of new large ſtones, hewn out in the moſt curious and ingenious manner; in its out-buildings, which were large, beautiful, and ſumptuous:—But, ſtill more admirable in this majeſtic edifice, were thoſe extraordinary marks of divine favour with which it was honoured,

noured, viz. *the ark of the covenant*, in which were put the tables of the law and the mercy-ſeat, which was upon it; from whence the divine oracles were given out, with an audible voice, as often as God was conſulted in behalf of his people; the *Schechinah*, or the *divine preſence*, manifeſted by a viſible cloud reſting over the mercy ſeat; the *urim* and *thummim*, by which the high-prieſt conſulted GOD in difficult and momentous caſes, relating to the public intereſt of the nation; the *holy fire*, which came down from heaven, upon the altar, at the conſecration:—*Theſe* indeed were excellencies and beauties derived from a divine ſource, diſtinguiſhing and exalting this ſacred ſtructure above all others; (1 Kings xviii. ver. 38.) DAVID, filled, with the hopes of building this temple, declared his intentions to NATHAN the prophet; (2 Sam. vii. ver. 1, 2, 3.) but this was not permitted him, becauſe his reign had been attended with wars, bloodſhed and ſlaughter, and he ſtill had to contend with many powerful enemies; but, though forbid to execute this divine and glorious work, he made conſiderable preparations for that purpoſe; which having done, and drawing towards his latter end, he aſſembled all the princes and chief perſons of his kingdom, and ordered and encouraged SOLOMON publicly, and in their preſence, to purſue ſuch his intention, (1 Chron. xxviii. ver. 1—10.) and delivered him the pattern, or ſcheme, of all the houſes, &c.

(ver. 11, 12.) the courſes of the prieſts and Levites, (ver. 11---31.) and likewiſe the pattern of the cherubims, (ver. 18.) earneſtly exhorting his ſervants, in regard to the tender age of his ſon SOLOMON, who was yet but very young, to yield him there councils and aſſiſtance, in erecting a palace, not deſigned for man, but for the LORD GOD. DAVID himſelf gave towards the building of the temple, out of his own treaſures, beſides a vaſt variety of precious ſtones, three thouſand talents of gold of Ophir, and ſeven thouſand talents of ſilver, (1 Chron. xxix. ver. 25.)

The Princes of his kingdom followed the glorious example of their King, and gave five thouſand talents and ten thouſand drachms of gold, ten thouſand talents of ſilver, eighteen thouſand talents of braſs, and one hundred thouſand talents of iron, as alſo a great many of the moſt precious ſtones, (1 Chron. xxix. 6, 7, 8.)

When DAVID the King was dead *, and SOLOMON was eſtabliſhed on his throne, he reſolved to carry into execution his father's deſign, and to erect a temple to his great Creator.

For which purpoſe he applied to HIRAM, King of Tyre, for aſſiſtance; and having readily obtained a promiſe of what he deſired, and procured from thence, and other parts, men and ma-

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* A. L. 2989.

terials

terials ſufficient for his intentions, he began that great and majeſtic fabric; and as method and order are known and confeſſed to be eſſentials requiſite in conducting all great deſigns and undertakings, he proceeded in the following manner: He numbered and claſſed his men according to their ſkill and abilities, viz.

1. Harodim, princes, rulers or provoſts, in number — — 300
2. Menatzchim, overſeers and comforters of the people in working, that were expert Maſter-Maſons — 3,300
3. Ghiblim, ſtone-ſquarers, poliſhers and ſculptors; and Iſhchotzeb, men of hewing; Benai, ſetters, layers or builders, being able and ingenious fellow-crafts — — 80,000
4. The levy out of Iſrael, appointed to work in Lebanon one month in three, 10,000 each month, under the direction of noble Adoniram, who was the junior grand warden - 30,000

Whole number employed, excluſive of the two grand wardens, and of the men of burthen, who were the remains of the old Canaanites, who being bondmen, are not numbered among Maſons, was — —— 113,600

Solomon likewiſe partitioned the fellow-crafts into certain lodges, appointing to each, one to preſide

preſide as a Maſter, aſſiſted by two others as guardians, that they might receive commands in * a regular manner, take care of the tools and jewels, and be duly paid, fed, cloathed, &c.

Theſe neceſſary regulations being previouſly ſettled, to preſerve that order and harmony which would be abſolutely requiſite among ſo great a number of men, in executing ſo large a work: He alſo took into conſideration, the future agreement and proſperity of the craft, and deliberated on the beſt means to ſecure them by a laſting cement.

Now, brotherly love, and immutable fidelity, preſented themſelves to his mind, as the moſt proper baſis for an inſtitution, whoſe aim and end ſhould be to eſtabliſh permanent unity among its members, and to render them a ſociety, who, while they enjoyed the moſt perfect felicity, would be of conſiderable utility to mankind. And being deſirous to tranſmit it under the antient reſtrictions as a bleſſing to future ages, SOLOMON decreed, that whenever they ſhould aſſemble in their lodges to diſcourſe upon, and improve themſelves in the arts and ſciences; and whatever elſe ſhould be deemed proper topics to encreaſe their knowledge, they ſhould likewiſe inſtruct each other in ſecrecy and prudence, morality and

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* Vide Book of Conſtitutions, p. 21.

good-

good fellow-ſhip ; and for theſe purpoſes he eſtabliſhed certain peculiar rules and cuſtoms to be invariably obſerved in their converſations, that their minds might be enriched by a perfect acquaintance with, and practice of, every moral, ſocial and religious duty, leſt while they were ſo highly honoured by being employed in raiſing a temple to the great JEHOVAH, they ſhould neglect to ſecure to themſelves an happy admittance into the celeſtial lodge, of which the temple was only to be a type.

Thus did our wiſe Grand Maſter contrive a plan by mechanical and practical alluſions, to inſtruct the craftſmen in principles of the moſt ſublime ſpeculative philoſophy, tending to the glory of God, and to ſecure to them temporal bleſſings here, and eternal life hereafter ; as well as to unite the ſpeculative and operative Maſons thereby forming a two-fold advantage from the principles of geometry and architecture, on the one part, and the precepts of wiſdom and ethicks on the other. The next circumſtance which demanded SOLOMON's attention was, the readieſt and moſt effectual method of paying the wages of ſo vaſt a body of men, according to their reſpective degrees, without error or confuſion, that nothing might be found among the maſons of Sion, ſave harmony and peace. * This was ſettled in a manner well known

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* 1 Kings vi. 7.

to

to all regularly made Maſons, and therefore is unneceſſary, as alſo improper, to be mentioned here.

Theſe arrangements being adjuſted, the noble ſtructure was began *, and conducted with ſuch grandeur, order, and concord, as afforded SOLOMON the moſt exalted ſatisfaction, and filled him with the ſtrongeſt aſſurance, that the royal art would be further encouraged in future ages, and amongſt various nations, from the excellencies of this temple, and the fame and ſkill of the Iſraelites, in the beauty and ſymmetry of architecture therein diſplayed.

He was likewiſe ſenſible, that when this building ſhould be compleated, the craftſmen would diſperſe themſelves over the whole earth ; and being deſirous to perpetuate in the moſt effectual manner, the harmony and good-fellowſhip already eſtabliſhed among them, and to ſecure to themſelves, their future pupils, and their ſucceſſors, the honour and reſpect due to men whoſe abilities were ſo great, and would be ſo juſtly renowned : In conjunction with HIRAM King

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* This noble ſtructure was erected in mount Moriah, in the month Zif, which anſwers to our April, being the ſecond month of the ſacred year (A. L. 2992.) and was carried on with ſuch prodigious expedition, that it was compleatly finiſhed in little more than ſeven years, in the month Bul, which anſwers to our October, A. L. 2999, and was dedicated the year following.

of

of Tyre and Hiram Abiff, the deputy Grand Maſter, concerted a proper plan to accompliſh his intentions; in which it was determined, that, in conformity to the practice of the original profeſſors of the royal art, general diſtinguiſhing characteriſticks ſhould be eſtabliſhed for a proof of their having been fellow labourers in this glorious work, to deſcend to their ſucceſſors in all future ages, who ſhould be in a peculiar manner qualified to cultivate the ſublime principles of this noble eſtabliſhment; and ſuch were adopted and received accordingly. With reſpect to the METHOD which would be hereafter neceſſary for propagating the principles of the ſociety, SOLOMON purſued the uniform and antient cuſtom, in regard to degrees of probation and injunctions to ſecrecy; which he himſelf had been obliged to comply with before he gained a perfection in the royal art, or even arrived at the ſummit of the ſciences; therefore, tho' there were no apprentices employed in the building of the temple; yet as the craftſmen were all intended to be promoted to the degree of Maſters, after its dedication; and as theſe would ſecure a ſucceſſion, by receiving apprentices who might themſelves in due time alſo become Maſter-Maſons, it was determined, that the gradations in the ſcience ſhould conſiſt of three diſtinct degrees, to each of which ſhould be adapted a particular diſtinguiſhing teſt, which teſt, together with the explication, was accordingly ſettled and

communicated to the fraternity, previous to their diſperſion, under a neceſſary and ſolemn injunction to ſecrecy; and they have been moſt cautiouſly preſerved, and tranſmitted down to poſterity by faithful Brethren, ever ſince their emigration. Thus the center of union among Free-Maſons, was firmly fixed; their *cabala* regulated and eſtabliſhed; and their principles directed to the excellent purpoſes of their original intention.

CHAP. II.

THE harmony and connexion of the ſociety of Free-Maſons, and the excellent precepts and principles thereof, have produced the utmoſt good conſequence, not only to the particular members of it, but frequently to the nations where it has been cultivated and practiſed.

For united by the endearing name of Brother, they live in an affection and friendſhip, rarely to be met with even among thoſe whom the ties of conſanguinity ought to bind in the firmeſt manner. That intimate union which does ſo much honour to humanity in general, in the particular intercourſe, which prevails among Free-Maſons, diffuſes pleaſure that no other inſtitution can boaſt. For the name which they mutually uſe one towards another, is not a vain compliment, or an idle parade; no, they enjoy in common, all the felicities of a true Brotherhood.

therhood. Here, merit and ability ſecure to their poſſeſſors, an honourable regard, and a reſpectful diſtinction, which every one receives with an unaffected complacency and a perfect humility; conſtantly exerting himſelf for the general good, without vanity, and without fear. For they who are not adorned with the ſame advantages, are neither mortified nor jealous. No one contends for ſuperiority; here emulation is only with a view to pleaſe; the man of ſhining abilities, and thoſe unbleſſed with ſuch ornaments, are here equally admitted; all may here perform their parts; and what may ſeem ſurprizing amongſt ſuch a variety of characters, haughtineſs or ſervility, never appear. The greateſt admit of a ſocial familiarity; the inferior is elevated and inſtructed, conſtantly maintaining by theſe means a beneficent equality.

With reſpect to the converſation which they hold during their aſſemblies, it is conducted with the moſt perfect decency: Here it is an univerſal maxim, never to ſpeak of the abſent but with reſpect; ill-natured ſatire is excluded; all raillery is forbidden; they will not even ſuffer the leaſt irony, or the poignant ſtrokes of wit, becauſe they generally have a malignant tendency; they tolerate nothing which carries with it even the appearance of vice.

Their pleaſures are never imbittered by ungrateful reflections, but produce a ſerene and laſting compoſure of mind. They flow not like a tor-

a torrent which decends with noiſe and impetuoſity, but like a peaceful ſtream within its own channel, ſtrong without violence, and gentle without dulneſs.

This exact regularity, very far from occaſioning a melancholly ſerioufneſs, diffuſes, on the contrary, over the heart, and over the underſtanding, the moſt pure delights; the bright effects of enjoyment and hilarity ſhine forth in the countenance; and altho' the appearances are ſometimes a little more ſprightly than ordinary, decency never runs any riſque; 'tis wiſdom in good-humour. For if a Brother ſhould happen to forget himſelf, or in his diſcourſe ſhould have the weakneſs to uſe ſuch expreſſions as are diſtinguiſhed under the name of liberties, a formidable ſign would immediately call him to his duty; a Brother may miſtake as a man, but he hath opportunity and courage to recover himſelf, becauſe he is a Free-Maſon. Altho' order and decorum are always ſcrupulouſly obſerved in the lodges of Free-Maſons; theſe exclude not in any wiſe gaiety and chearful enjoyment: The converſation is animated, and the kind and brotherly cordiality that preſides there affords the moſt pleaſing ſenſation.

Theſe particulars may juſtly recall to our minds the happy time of the divine Aſtrea! when there was neither ſuperiority nor ſubordination, becauſe men were as yet untainted by vice, and uncorrupt.

Having

Having now given a general ſketch of the nature of this inſtitution, from whence a candid reader may form no inconſiderable idea of that compoſed wiſdom, and laudable harmony which governs in the fellowſhip of Free-Maſons, we ſhall proceed in taking ſome notice of the ſeveral accuſations frequently brought againſt it.

And firſt: As none can venerate and eſteem the fair-ſex, more than Free-Maſons do, we cannot but reckon it a misfortune that the ladies ſhould be offended at their non-admiſſion into this order; and the more ſo, as they no ſooner learn with what moderation the Maſons comport themſelves in their aſſemblies, but without knowing the reaſon why they are not admitted, they cenſure us with all the ſeverity their delicate minds are capable of. This we muſt beg leave to ſay, is intirely owing to miſtaken prejudice, for a little reflection would convince them, that their not being received in this inſtitution, is not in the leaſt ſingular. They ſtand in the ſame predicament with reſpect to the prieſthood, and many other particular ſocieties; the ſolemn aſſemblies of the antients, the ſenates of Pagan, and the conclaves of papal Rome, all national ſenates, and eccleſiaſtical ſynods, univerſities and ſeminaries of learning, &c. &c. with which they might with equal propriety be offended.

Next to the diſpleaſure of the ladies, we will conſider a charge with regard to government, which in other countries, leſs happy in their conſtitution

ſtitution than our own, has at different times been unjuſtly proſecuted againſt this fraternity.

It has been imagined, that there is every thing to be feared for the tranquility of the ſtate, from a numerous aſſociation of men of merit and character, intimately united under the ſeal of ſecrecy. I agree that this ſuſpicion has in it ſomething very ſpecious; for if the paſſion of a ſingle man, hath cauſed (as we have ſeen more than once) ſtrange revolutions in a ſtate, what might not be produced by a body ſo numerous and united, as that of Free and Accepted Maſons, were they liable to theſe intrigues and cabals, which pride and ambition inſtill but too often, into the human heart.

But there is nothing to be apprehended from Free-Maſons in theſe reſpects; they are actuated by the love of order and peace, and are as much attached to civil ſociety, as united among themſelves; 'tis in this ſchool, that a man may learn moſt effectually, what reſpect, what ſubmiſſion, what veneration he ought to have, for his God, his Country, and his King; 'tis among them, that ſubordination is fully practiſed and deemed a virtue, not a yoke.

Equally without reaſon have they alſo been accuſed of holding aſſemblies for no other purpoſe, than that of ſpeaking with the greater freedom on religious, as well as political matters. Theſe topics are never ſuffered to be agitated; for it is a fundamental maxim of this

inſtitution,

inſtitntion, to prohibit all ſuch diſputes. The God of heaven, and the rulers of the earth, are by them inviolably reſpected. And with regard to the ſacred perſon of majeſty, every congregated lodge, ſolemnizes the name with all poſſible grandeur and reſpect.——Thus theſe accuſations fall to the ground.

It is alſo alledged by the objectors of Free-Maſonry, that upon the initiation of a member into this myſtery, he lays himſelf under a ſolemn obligation by an oath, with very ſevere penalties. This, by them, is pronounced an unwarrantable proceeding. Certainly theſe perſons are as ignorant as they are ungenerous, and for want of better judgments form erroneous notions, and from falſe premiſes draw falſe concluſions. To obviate this objection, we will trace the antiquity of ſwearing, and obſerve the different cuſtoms adopted by the antients on this head; afterwards examining the nature of an oath, ſuppoſing (for the ſake of argument, but not granting) that one is required, as ſet forth by the adverſaries of Maſonry; we will conſider how far, it is, or is not, warrantable in the preſent caſe.

We are informed by ſacred hiſtory, what was the cuſtom of ſwearing among the Hebrews, who ſometimes ſwore by *ſtretching forth their hands* (as in Gen. xiv. v. 27.) ſometimes the party ſwearing, *put his hand under the others thigh.* (Gen. xxiv. v. 21. xlvii. 29.) which was the manner

manner of adminiſtration uſed by ABRAHAM and JACOB. Sometimes **ſtanding before the altar*, as we read in Kings; which was alſo the cuſtom of the Athenians(1), the Carthaginians(2), and the Romans(3).

The Jews chiefly ſwore by *Jeruſalem*, by the *temple*, by *the gold of the temple*, by *the altar*, and *the gift on the* altar.

The Greeks eſteemed it an honour paid their DEITIES, to uſe their names in ſolemn contracts, promiſes and aſſevérations; and call them to witneſs mens truth and honeſty, or to puniſh their falſehood and treachery. This was reputed a ſort of religious adoration, being an acknowledgment of the omnipotence and omnipreſence, and by conſequence of the divinity of the Being thus invoked: And the inſpired writers, for the ſame reaſon, forbid to ſwear by the Pagan DEITIES, and commanded to ſwear by the true GOD. Thus in Deuteronomy (chap. vi. v. 15.) *thou ſhalt fear the Lord thy God, and ſerve him, and ſhalt ſwear by his name.* And in Jeremiah (chap. v. ver. 7.) *how ſhall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forſaken me, and ſworn by them that are no Gods*; and to forbear other

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* Kings, viii. 31.—(1) Alex. ab. Alex. L. 5. c. 10.—(2) Livius, Dec. 3. l. 1.—(3) Juven. Sat. 3. Val. Max. L. 9. c. 3.

inſtances, the worſhippers of the true God, are, by DAVID, repreſented to ſwear by him, *i. e.* by invoking his name.

The antiquity of ſwearing, as well as the manner of adminiſtring an oath, having now been ſufficiently ſhewn; we will in the next place, as far as may be neceſſary, take notice of the fundamental principles of this eſtabliſhment, as the propereſt method to form a right judgment of it; and then, in anſwer to the preſent objection, we will examine how far an oath would, or would not be juſtifiable, on the initiation of a Maſon, and ſuppoſing it to be required even under ſuch pænal ſanctions as have been pretended.

If we examine the laws and regulations of Free-Maſonry, it will appear that the end and purport of it is truly laudable, being calculated to regulate our paſſions, to aſſiſt us in acquiring knowledge of the arts and ſciences, and to promote morality and beneficence, as well as to render converſation agreeable, innocent, and inſtructive; and ſo to influence our practice, as to make us uſeful to others, and happy in ourſelves. With regard to the relation we have (as members) to ſociety in general, it will appear equally evident from the ſaid regulations, that a Free-Maſon is to be a peaceable ſubject, conforming cheerfully to the government under which he lives, is to pay a due deference to his

his ſuperiors; and from his inferiors is to receive honour rather with reluctance than to extort it. He muſt be a man of univerſal benevolence and charity, not tenacious of his abundance, when the exigences of his fellow creatures lay the juſteſt claim to his bounty.

Maſons not only challenge, but have ever ſupported that character amongſt the honeſt and candid part of mankind, whoſe equity and reaſon would never ſuffer them to entertain ill-grounded prejudices.

The great Mr. LOCKE appears to have been ſo delighted with ſome of our principles, that he tells Lady MASHAM (to whom he was writing on this ſubject) "That it was his wiſh, they were communicated to all mankind, ſince there is nothing more true than what the Maſons teach; that the better men are, the more they love one another; virtue having in itſelf ſomething ſo amiable as to charm the heart of all who behold it*."

And another‡, ſpeaking of Free-Maſons, ſays, "No abuſe is tolerated among them, no intemperance allowed; modeſty, union and humility,

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* The manuſcript from which this and a ſubſequent quotation are made, is printed in the appendix to this diſquiſition.

‡ Vid. Rel. Caſt. vol. 6. fol.

are ſtrongly recommended." Again, "this ſociety is no ways offenſive to religion, good manners or political government; it has and does ſtill flouriſh in Great-Britain and its dominions under the protection of the greateſt perſonages, even Princes of the royal blood."

Mr. CHAMBERS, in his *Cyclopædia*, alſo teſtifies, "That Free and Accepted Maſons, are a very antient ſociety, or body of men, ſo called either from ſome extraordinary knowledge of Maſonry or building, which they were ſuppoſed to be Maſters of, or becauſe the firſt founders of this ſociety were of that profeſſion."

"They are very conſiderable, both for number and character; being found in every country in Europe, and conſiſting principally of perſons of merit and conſideration. As to antiquity, they lay claim to a ſtanding of ſome thouſand years, and 'tis ſaid, can trace up their original as early as the building of SOLOMON'S TEMPLE."

"What the end of their inſtitution is, ſeems ſtill to be a ſecret, though as much of it as is known, appears laudable, as it tends to promote friendſhip, ſociety, mutual aſſiſtance and good fellowſhip."

"The Brethren of this family, are ſaid to be poſſeſſed of a number of ſecrets, which have been religiouſly obſerved from age to age. Be their other good qualities whatever they will, it

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is plain they are maſters of *one*, in a very great degree, namely SECRECY."

Now let us aſk, if a number of perſons have formed themſelves into a body with a deſign to improve in uſeful knowledge, to promote univerſal benevolence, and to cultivate the ſocial virtues of human life, and have bound themſelves by the ſolemn obligation of an oath, to conform to the rules of ſuch inſtitution, where can be the impiety, immorality or folly of ſuch proceeding? Is it not the cuſtom of moſt communities; in the ſtate, amongſt the learned bodies, in commerce, &c. a caſe too commonly known to require a recital of particular inſtances, I ſhall therefore content myſelf with adding this obſervation, viz. That Biſhop SAUNDERSON, an eminet caſuiſt, in his lectures on the ſubject of oaths, very judiciouſly aſſerts, that when a thing is not by any precept or interdict human or divine, ſo determined, but every man may at his choice do, or not do, as he ſees expedient, let him do what he will, he ſinneth not. (1 Chron. chap. vii. ver. 36.) As if CAIUS ſhould ſwear to ſell his land to TITUS, or to lend him an hundred crowns, the anſwer is brief, an oath in this caſe, is both lawful and binding. (Prælect. 3. Sec. 15.)

And as the principles of this inſtitution are truly praiſe-worthy, containing thoſe valuable requiſites which will ever ſecure the eſteem

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and admiration of all good men (as well as moſt aſſuredly the envy of the bad) we will put this plain queſtion; is not the deſign of it of equal importance to the public, with the lending of an hundred crowns to a private man? The anſwer and the conſequences are both evident; that an oath on the ſubject of Free-Maſonry, if required, is both lawful and obligatory.

As for the terror of a penalty, it is a miſtaken notion to imagine that the ſolemnity of an oath, adds any thing to the obligation; or that the oath is not equally binding without any penalty at all.

I ſhall add a few more quotations from the ſame excellent caſuiſt, and leave the explanation and application to the intelligent.

A ſolemn oath of itſelf, and in its own nature, is not more obligatory than a ſimple one; becauſe the obligation of an oath, ariſes preciſely from this, that God is invoked as a witneſs and avenger, no leſs in the ſimple one, than in the ſolemn and corporal; for the invocation is made preciſely by the pronounciation of the words, (which is the ſame both in the ſimple and ſolemn) and not by any corporal motion or concomitant ſign in which the ſolemnity of the oath conſiſts. (Prælect. 5. Sec. 12.)

And it is a matter well worthy the conſideration of every man, that as the object of a lawful oath, is God alone, ſo it contains a

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ſolemn confeſſion of his omnipreſence, that he is with us in every place; of his omniſcience, that he knoweth all ſecrets of the heart, that he is a maintainer of truth and an avenger of falſehood; of his juſtice, that he is willing, and of his omnipotence, that he is able to puniſh thoſe that by diſregard to their oaths, ſhall diſhonour him.

It is therefore of a very dangerous tendency for perſons who have once taken an oath, to trifle and play with the force of it, even ſuppoſing the occaſion of ſuch obligation was actually of ſmall moment in itſelf. And this is poſitively determined by the ſame writer, in the following words, and ought to be a caution to all, not to violate an oath, leſt they incur the fatal conſequences of real perjury.

"A voluntary oath is the more binding for being voluntary, becauſe there is no ſtricter obligation than that we take willingly on ourſelves." (Prælect. 4. Sec. 11.) And in another place he is more particular, where a matter is ſo trivial, that it is not worth the deliberation of a wiſe man, nor ſignifies a ſtraw whether it be done or not done; as to reach up a chip, or to rub one's beard, or for the ſlightneſs of it, is not much to be eſteemed, as to give a boy an apple, or to lend a pin; an oath is binding in matters of the leaſt moment; becauſe weighty and trivial things have a like reſpect unto truth and falſehood;

falſehood; and further, becauſe every party ſwearing, is bound to perform all he promiſed, as far as he is able, and as far it is lawful: To give an apple to a boy is both poſſible and lawful, he is bound therefore to perform it: He ought to fulfil his oath." (Prælect. 3. Sec. 15.)

This is likewiſe confirmed by Moſes (Numb. xxx. v. 2.) " If a man ſwear an oath to bind his ſoul with a bond, he ſhall not break his word; he ſhall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth." And (Zec. chap. v.) It is threatened that every one that ſweareth falſely, ſhall be cut off by the curſe: " I will bring it forth, ſaid the LORD of HOSTS, and it ſhall enter into the houſe of him that ſweareth falſely by my name; and it ſhall remain in the midſt of his houſe, and ſhall conſume it, with the timber thereof, and the ſtones thereof."

The objectors being thus anſwered, with reſpect to the lawfulneſs of an oath, ſuppoſing one to be required on the initiation of a Free-Maſon (as to the certainty of which conjecture is their only ſupport). I ſhall next take notice of the charge brought againſt them on account of SECRECY; one of their grand characteriſticks; and the innocent cauſe of all the perſecutions and reproaches they ſuffer.

We are condemned for keeping the eſſentials of our inſtitution from the knowledge of thoſe who are not members of it: Which, 'tis ſaid, muſt

muſt ſufficiently prove them to be of a bad nature and tendency, elſe why are they not made public for the ſatisfaction of mankind.

If ſecrecy be a virtue (a thing never yet denied) can that be imputed to us as a crime, which has been conſidered an excellence in all ages? Does not SOLOMON, the wiſeſt of men, tell us, "He that diſcovers ſecrets is a traitor, but a man of a faithful ſpirit concealeth the matter."

In conducting all worldly affairs, ſecrecy is not only eſſential, but abſolutely neceſſary; and was ever eſteemed a quality of the greateſt worth.

Thus we find the great FENELON makes ULYSSES, in the ſyſtem of the education which he delivers to his friends for his ſon TELEMACHUS, particularly enjoin them, above all, to render him juſt, beneficent, ſincere, and faithful in *keeping ſecrets*; a precept that afterwards produced the beſt of conſequences to the young Prince, of whom it is recorded, that with this great excellence of taciturnity, he not only diveſted himſelf of that cloſe myſterious air, ſo common to the reſerved, but alſo conſtantly avoided telling the leaſt untruth in ſupport of this part of his character. A conduct! highly worthy the imitation of every one to whom ſecrets are intruſted, affording them a pattern of openneſs, eaſe and ſincerity; for while he ſeemed to carry his whole heart upon his lips, communicating what was of no importance, yet he knew how to ſtop juſt in the proper moment,

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without proceeding to thoſe things which might raiſe any ſuſpicion, or furniſh even a hint to diſcover the purpoſes of his mind.

If we turn our eyes back to antiquity, we ſhall find the old Egyptians had ſo great a regard for ſilence and ſecrecy in the myſteries of their religion, that they ſet up the God HARPOCRATES (vid. *imagines deorum a vicentio chartario)* to whom they paid peculiar honour and veneration, who was repreſented with his right hand placed near the heart, and the left down by his ſide, covered with a ſkin before, full of eyes and ears, to ſignify, that of many things to be ſeen and heard, few are to be publiſhed.

And among the ſame people, their great goddeſs *Iſis*, the *Minerva* of the Greeks, had always an image of a *Sphynx* placed at the entrance of her temples, to denote that ſecrets were there preſerved under ſacred coverings, that they might be kept from the knowledge of the vulgar, as much as the riddles of that creature.

JAMBLICUS, in his Life of PYTHAGORAS, confirms the above opinion, by obſerving, that from the myſterious knowledge of the Egyptians, that philoſopher drew the ſyſtem of his ſymbolical learning, and inſtructive tenets, ſeeing that the principles and wiſe doctrines of this nation, were ever kept ſecret among themſelves, and were delivered down, not in writing, but only by oral tradition. And indeed ſo cautious and prudent were they in theſe matters, that every

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diſciple admitted to their wiſe and ſcientific myſteries, was bound in the moſt ſolemn manner to conceal ſuch myſteries from the vulgar, or thoſe whoſe ideas were not ſufficiently exalted to receive them. As a proof of this, we need only recollect the ſtory of *Hipparchus*, a *Pythagorean*, who having out of ſpleen and reſentment, violated and broke through the ſeveral engagements of the ſociety, was held in the utmoſt deteſtation, expelled the ſchool as one moſt infamous and abandoned, and as he was dead to the principles of virtue and philoſophy, had a tomb erected for him, according to their cuſtom, as though he had been naturally dead. The ſhame and diſgrace that juſtly attended ſo great a breach of truth and fidelity, drove the unhappy wretch to ſuch deſpair, that he proved his own executioner; and ſo abhorred was even his memory, that he was denied the rites and ceremonies of burial uſed to the dead in thoſe times; inſtead of which, his body was ſuffered to lie upon the ſhore of the iſle of *Samos*.

Among the Greek nations, the Athenians had a ſtatue of braſs, which they awfully revered; this figure was without a tongue; by which ſecrecy was intimated.

The Romans had a goddeſs of ſilence, named *Angerona*, repreſented with her fore finger on her lips, a ſymbol of prudence and taciturnity.

ANNAXARCHUS, who (according to PLINY) was apprehended in order to extort his ſecrets

from him bit his tongue in the midſt, and afterwards ſpit it in the tyrant's face, rather chooſing to loſe that organ, than to diſcover thoſe things which he had promiſed to conceal.

We read likewiſe that CATO, the Cenſor, often ſaid to his friends, of three things which he had good reaſon to repent, the principal was, *divulging a ſecret.*

The Druids in our own nation (who were the only prieſts among the antient Britons) committed nothing to writing. And CÆSAR obſerves that they had a head or chief, who exerciſed a ſort of excommunication, attended with dreadful penalties on thoſe, who either publiſhed or profaned their myſteries.

Therefore, ſince it evidently appears from the foregoing inſtances (among many other) that there ever were ſecrets amongſt mankind, as well reſpecting ſocieties as individuals, and that the keeping thoſe inviolable, was always reputed an indiſpenſable duty, and attended with an honourable eſtimation? It muſt be very difficult to aſſign a ſufficient reaſon why the ſame practice ſhould be at all wondered at, or leſs approved in the Free and Accepted Maſons of the preſent age, than they were among the wiſeſt men, and greateſt philoſophers of antiquity.

The general practice and conſtant applauſe of the antients, as well as the cuſtoms of the moderns, one would naturally imagine ſhould be ſufficient to juſtify Maſons againſt any charge

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of ſingularity or innovation on this account; for how can this be thought ſingular, or new, by any one who will but calmly allow himſelf the ſmalleſt time for reflection.

Do not all incorporated bodies amongſt us, enjoy this liberty without impeachment or cenſure? An apprentice is bound to keep the ſecrets of his maſter; a free man is obliged to conſult the intereſt of his company, and not proſtitute in common the myſteries of his profeſſion; ſecret committees and privy councils, are ſolemnly enjoined not to publiſh abroad their debates and reſolutions. In courts martial, the members are bound to ſecrecy; and in many caſes for more effectual ſecurity an oath is adminiſtred.

As in ſociety in general, we are united together by our indigencies and infirmities, and a vaſt variety of circumſtances contributing to our mutual and neceſſary dependence on each other, (which lays a grand foundation for terreſtrial happineſs, by ſecuring general amity and the reciprocation of good offices in the world) ſo, in all particular ſocieties, of whatever denomination, they are all conjoined by a ſort of cement; by bonds and laws that are peculiar to each of them, from the higheſt aſſemblies to the loweſt. Conſequently the injunctions of ſecrecy among Free-Maſons, can be no more unwarrantable than in the ſocieties and caſes already pointed out; and to report, or even to inſinuate, that they are, muſt argue a want of candour, a want

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of reaſon, and a want of charity. For by the laws of nature, and of nations, every individual, and every ſociety, has a right to be ſuppoſed innocent 'till proved otherwiſe.

Yet notwithſtanding the myſteries of our profeſſion are kept inviolable, none are excluded from a full knowledge of them, in due time and manner, upon proper application, and being found capable and worthy of the truſt. To form other deſigns and expectations, is building on a ſandy foundation, and will only ſerve to teſtify, that like a raſh man, their diſcretion is always out of the way when they have moſt occaſion to make uſe of it.

CHAP. III.

WE will now proceed to the next objection, viz. That "Maſonry is a trifling inſtitution, and that our principles contain nothing valuable in them."

Theſe cenſurers finding it eaſier to decry a ſcience than to underſtand it, are with wicked endeavours attempting to depreciate that which they cannot attain to, and would make their neceſſity appear a virtue, and their ignorance the effect of choice.

This turn of mind is the deſpicable offspring of envy, and ſo ſelfiſh are ſuch men, that they would rather prefer having the whole circle of the arts and ſciences aboliſhed, was it in their power, than that others ſhould be poſſeſſed of a knowledge, which they are themſelves totally unacquainted with, and undeſerving of.

But alas! they diſquiet themſelves in vain; we who are Maſons cannot but laugh at and pity ſuch feeble attacks, and are heartily ſorry for

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thoſe who have no better underſtandings than to regard them.

Did they know any thing of our profeſſion, they could not but eſteem it, for they would be convinced that it is founded on the moſt exalted principles of morality and ſocial virtue; tending to promote the true happineſs of mankind in general, the peace and ſatisfaction of every individual in particular; to cenſure then and vilify what they are entirely ignorant of, diſcovers the baſeneſs of their diſpoſitions, and how little they are qualified to paſs their judgments in matters of ſuch importance. Therefore, though we commiſerate their defects, we muſt, at the ſame time, be allowed to pronounce them unworthy our further notice.

Had our inſtitution contained nothing commendable or valuable in it, 'tis impoſſible it ſhould have exiſted, and been patronized by the wiſe, the good and great, in all ages of the world. For we cannot ſuppoſe that men, diſtinguiſhed by every accompliſhment that can adorn human nature, would embrace or continue in principles which they found to be nugatory, erroneous or contemptible. Therefore the advice which GAMALIEL (Acts v. ver. 38.) wiſely gave to the perſecutors of the apoſtles, might with great propriety be recommended to theſe railers againſt Free-Maſons. They may aſſure themſelves, that if there was no more in our inſtitution than their little minds ſuggeſt, it would

would have fallen to the ground ages paſt, but the contrary being the caſe, they may ſafely conclude, it will continue to exiſt notwithſtanding any oppoſition, for ages yet to come.

Perhaps it will be ſaid, that the moral and ſocial principles we profeſs, are equally neceſſary to the ſupport of every well regulated ſociety; how then came Maſons to appropriate the merit of ſuch principles to themſelves? I anſwer, they are not only deemed neceſſary, but taught, and brought into practice in the lodge; they are familiarized to us by ſuch a plain, pleaſing and peculiar method, that they ſeem no longer leſſons or rules, but become inherent principles in the breaſt of every Free-Maſon. But from the corrupt ſtate and diſpoſition of mankind, there are ſome who will always make it their buſineſs to aſperſe and ridicule whatever they ſuſpect has the leaſt beauty or excellency in it.

Theſe envious beings, having juſt ſenſe enough to imagine, that ſcandal is eaſier hit off than praiſe; and that ſatyr will ſooner procure them a name than panegyrick, and looking at all ſocieties through falſe and narrow mediums, they form judgments of them from their trifling ſelves; acting in direct contradiction to the apoſtle's exhortation to the Philippians, "If there be any virtue, if there be any praiſe, they will *condemn* thoſe things," notwithſtanding the ſtrength of reaſon with which they are accompanied; not-

withſtanding the apparent benefit and advantage they may bring to mankind; ſo little reliſh have they for things excellent in themſelves, ſo inattentive are they to the force of the cleareſt reaſoning, and ſo enveloped in ignorance and prejudice, that nothing is ſufficient to convince them. I do not mean that ignorance which implies a want of knowledge*, but that affected and preſumptuous folly which deſpiſes it. And of ſuch SOLOMON ſays, "Seeſt thou a man that deſpiſeth inſtruction? there is more hope of a fool than of him."

If therefore theſe accuſers have any remains of modeſty, if the aſſertors of ſuch calumny can ever bluſh, they are now put to the trial; for, whilſt they deal thus freely with the principles and proceedings of perſons of the greateſt honour and diſtinction, they are only diſcovering to the judicious part of mankind, the weakneſs of their heads, and the wickedneſs of their hearts. How truely do they come under the ſtandard of that deſcription which JUSTUS LIPSIUS, an eminent writer, has given us of this abominable ſect.

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* The natural and proper effect of a bare want of knowledge is, that men forbear to paſs any judgment, upon what they underſtand not; and that they neither contend for, nor againſt any thing, before they have ſome reaſon to determine them ſo to do.

"Calumny,

" Calumny, ſays he, is a filthy and pernicious infection of the tongue; generally aimed by the moſt wicked and abandoned part of mankind, againſt the moſt worthy and deſerving of eſteem, and wounds them unexpectedly. And to whom is it pleaſing? To the moſt vile, the perfidious, the talkative. But what is its ſource? From what origin does it proceed? From falſehood, as its father; from envy, as its mother; and from curioſity, as its nurſe?"

Would ſuch perſons exerciſe but a very ſmall portion of reaſon and reflection, they would readily perceive the madneſs of their attempt to depreciate a ſociety which has ever withſtood and repelled every attack made againſt it; ſtill acquiring additional honour and ſtrength; ſuch proceedings affecting it no more, than a javelin thrown by the feeble hand of old age, that never reaches, or at moſt makes no impreſſion on its deſtined mark.

CHAP. IV.

THE laſt accuſation brought againſt Free and Accepted Maſons, which I ſhall take any notice of, is, that they make uſe of hierogliphic figures, parabolical and ſymbolical cuſtoms and ceremonies, ſecret words and ſigns, with different degrees of probation peculiar to themſelves: Theſe are alſo cenſured.

What evil theſe refined caſuiſts can point out in ſuch proceedings, is not eaſy to imagine. But I think it no very difficult undertaking to juſtify them againſt any objection.

It is well known, that ſuch cuſtoms and ceremonies are as antient as the firſt ages of the world, the philoſophers of which practiſed the method of inculcating their ſublime truths and important points of knowledge by allegory and mythology, the better to ſecure them from deſcend-

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ing into the familiar reach of every inattentive and unprepared novice, from whom they might not meet with the veneration they deſerved, and therefore become too familiar, and contemptible; for which reaſon they were accuſtomed to proceed with the utmoſt care and prudence. And ORIGEN tells us, *(Origen Contra Celſum)* "The Egyptian philoſophers had ſublime notions which they kept ſecret, and never diſcovered to the people, but under the veil of fables and allegories; alſo other eaſtern nations concealed ſecret myſteries under their religious ceremonies, a cuſtom ſtill retained by many of them.

An interpretation therefore of theſe allegories, &c. as they come under my notice, ſhall be attended to; and will, I flatter myſelf, exactly ſquare with the preſent purpoſe.

Of all the ſymbols appropriated to JUPITER, I ſhall only mention the *crown of rays*, with the *petaſus* and *caduceus*, with which he is repreſented. The firſt denotes the power of the ſupreme Being; the other, that power ought to be accompanied with prudence.

The cock was a ſymbol peculiar to MERCURY, as expreſſive of that vigilance which was ſo very neceſſary to him, deſtined to execute many functions; as ſometimes this emblem hath an ear of corn in his bill, it may ſerve to point out to man, that plenty and happineſs will be the conſequence of care and attention.

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The club is the ſymbol of HERCULES, and denotes ſtrength.

The various ſymbols belonging to the goddeſs DIANA, were oxen, lions, griffins, ſtags, ſphynxes, bees, boughs, roſes, &c. which ſignify in a myſtical ſenſe, the univerſe, with all its productions.

The ſtory of MINERVA is entirely allegorical, relating, that JUPITER having devoured METIS (i. e. prudence) conceived MINERVA, and was delivered of her. This ſymbol means plainly that prudence is wholly in GOD, and that he produces her externally by the wonderful works conſtantly manifeſted in his government of the univerſe.

It will not be foreign to my ſubject, to take notice that cities, rivers, regions, and even the various parts of the globe had their proper ſymbols, which were ſo many enſigns to diſtinguiſh them. Cities were ſignified by women with towers on their heads: The eaſt is repreſented by a woman mounted upon a carr, with four horſes, riſing as they go. The weſt is ſignified likewiſe by a woman in a carr drawn by two horſes: The genius that precedes her, together with the horſes falling down, by which the weſt, or ſun ſetting is denoted.

The ſymbol of ASIA, was a woman with a mural crown, holding an anchor, to denote that the way thither was to croſs the ſea. AFRICA

was

was repreſented by a woman with an elephant's trunk on her forehead. Thus were the different parts of the world repreſented under their reſpective ſymbols and hieroglyphicks.

To improve properly on theſe myſtical writings, we muſt bring them home to ourſelves, by way of application.

Firſt in a phyſical ſenſe; for under the various names of pagan deities, are concealed the body and ſubſtance of natural philoſophy: Under allegories, the poets expreſs the wonderful works of nature.

Secondly in an ethical ſenſe; the ſcope or intent of mythologiſts, was not fable, but morality. Their deſign was to inform the underſtanding, correct the paſſions, and guide the will. Examples are laid down to kindle in the mind a candid emulation, leading through the temple of virtue to the temple of honour. They ſet off in the fulleſt colours, the beauty of virtue and deformity of vice.

Thirdly in a theological ſenſe; for let a ſkilful hand modeſtly draw aſide the veil of poetry, and he will plainly diſcover the majeſtic form of divinity. I think it is an aſſertion of TERTULLIAN (who lived in an early age of Chriſtianity) That many of the poetical fictions had their original from the ſcriptures. And PLATO is ſaid, by the beſt authorities, to have derived the ſubliméſt principles of his philoſophy, from ſome

writings

writings of MOSES, which he had met with and ſtudied in the courſe of his travels in Egypt*. Doubtleſs as the antients before the invention of letters, expreſſed their conceptions in hieroglyphicks, ſo did the poets their divinity, in fables and parables.

We alſo find, that even when they ſet up ſtones in order to compoſe any memorial, there was ſomething expreſſive either in the number, of which the monument conſiſted, or in their ſhape, or in the order and figure in which they were diſpoſed; of the firſt kind were the monuments of mount Sinai; (Exod. xxiv. ver 4.) and that at Gilgal, erected by JOSHUA, upon the banks of Jordan; they conſiſted of twelve ſtones each, becauſe the people of Iſrael (for whoſe ſake the altar was built, and the ſtreams of Jordan divided themſelves, thereby opening a miraculous paſſage for the whole nation) were principally claſſed into twelve tribes (Joſh. iv. v. 8.) the ſame number of ſtones; and for the above reaſon were ſet up in the midſt of the place where the ark had reſted. (ib. v. 9.)

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* Whenever it is aſſerted that the Pagan accounts of things were borrowed from revelation, recorded in the hiſtory of Moſes, it muſt not be underſtood, that all the fables and fictions of the heathens were borrowed from thence, but only that the truths which appear amongſt their fables and fictions (when ſtript of their mythological diſguiſe) were derived from ſome traditions they had of a revelation recorded in the ſacred hiſtory.

Likewiſe

Likewiſe the famous * pillars before SOLOMON's temple, were not placed there for ornament alone; their ſignification, uſe, and myſtical meanings

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* As there is a ſeeming contradiction in the accounts of the height of theſe pillars, it may not be amiſs here to reconcile that matter. It is ſaid, *he ſet them up* IN *the porch of the temple* (1 Kings vii. 21.) and *he made before the houſe two pillars*. And *he reared up the pillars* BEFORE *the temple*, (2 Chron. iii. 15. 17.) which expreſſions taken together ſufficiently ſeem to imply the *pillars* were *before* the temple in its porch. But it is not quite ſo eaſy to aſſign the *height* of them. In one place it is ſaid of SOLOMON, *He caſt two pillars of braſs*, 18 *cubits high each*. (1 Kings vii. v. 15.) In another we read, *he made two pillars of thirty and five cubits high*. (2 Chron. iii. v. 15.) This ſeeming inconſiſtency, between the two ſacred hiſtorians, may be eaſily reconciled, but at the ſame time it ſerves to prove they did not combine together, or were corrected or amended by each other. To reconcile this ſeeming inconſiſtency, let us only ſuppoſe the *pedeſtal* or *baſis* of the columns to have been 17 cubits high, this added to the 18 cubits (1 Kings vii. v. 16. Jer. lii. v. 21) for the *ſhaft*, will together make exactly 35 cubits, the number mentioned (2 Chron. iii. v. 15.) laſtly taking (1 Kings vii. v. 16.) five cubits, being the height of the chapiter, we ſhall have the true height of the pillars, viz. 40 cubits. It is true, that in another place (2 Kings xxv. v. 17.) the height of the chapiter is ſaid to have been 3 cubits; but here we apprehend we have the dimenſions of the chapiter only, ſtrictly ſo called (*Cohereth*, in the Hebrew, or crowning) which is expreſſed to have been three cubits, but then there is left to be underſtood, *the wreathing work on it round about*, which was *two cubits* more, both which ſums added, make that of *five*, the number ſet down before by the ſame author.

It

meanings are ſo well known to the expert Maſons, that it would be both unneceſſary, as it is improper for me to aſſign them here; neither are the reaſons why they were made *hollow* known to any but thoſe who are acquainted with the *arcana* of this ſociety; though that circumſtance ſo often occurs in ſcripture.

And with reſpect to ASSEMBLIES and ESTABLISHMENT among men, they ever had ſigns and words, ſymbolical cuſtoms and ceremonies, different degrees of probation, &c. &c. this manifeſtly appears from all hiſtories both ſacred and profane.

When the Iſraelites marched thro' the wilderneſs, we find that the twelve tribes had between

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It is ſuppoſed that SOLOMON had reſpect to the *pillar* of the cloud, and the *pillar* of fire, which went before the Iſraelites, and conducted them in the wilderneſs; and was the token of the divine Providence over them: And thus SOLOMON ſet them up before the temple, hoping and praying that the divine light, and the cloud of GOD's glory, would vouchſafe to enter in there, and that GOD and his providence, would dwell among them in this houſe. The pillar on the right hand, repreſented the pillar of the cloud, and that on the left, the pillar of fire. The name of the former ſignifies, *he will eſtabliſh*, which intimates GOD's promiſe to eſtabliſh the throne of DAVID, and his people ISRAEL. The name of the latter ſignifies, *herein is ſtrength*; either alluding to the divine promiſe, in which was all their ſtrength and ſettlement; or rather, to the ark, which was within the temple, and called *the ſtrength of the Lord*, (2 Chron. chap. vi. ver. 42.)

them,

them, four principal banners or ſtandards; every one of which had its particular motto; and each ſtandard alſo had a diſtinct ſign deſcribed upon it. They encamped round about the tabernacle, and on the eaſt ſide were three tribes under the ſtandard of Judah; on the weſt were three tribes under the ſtandard of Ephraim; on the ſouth were three tribes under the ſtandard of Reuben; and on the north were three tribes under the ſtandard of Dan; (Num. 2d.) and the ſtandard of Judah was a lion, that of Ephraim an ox, that of Reuben a man, and that of Dan an eagle. Whence were framed the hieroglyphicks of Cherubims and Seraphims, to repreſent the people of Iſrael*.

The antient prophets, when they would deſcribe things emphatically, did not only draw parables from things which offered themſelves, as from the rent of a garment, 1 Sam. xv. from the ſabbatic year, Iſa. xxxvii. from the veſſels of a potter, Jer. xviii, &c. but alſo when ſuch fit objects were wanting, they ſupplied them by their own actions, as by rending a garment, 1 Kings xi. by ſhooting, 2 Kings xiii. by making bare their body, Iſa. xx. by impoſing ſignificant names to their

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* A Cherubim had one body with four faces; the faces of a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle, looking to the four winds of heaven, without turning about, as in Ezekiel's viſion, chap. 1. And the four Seraphims had the ſame four faces with four bodies, one face to each body.

ſons, Iſa. viii. Hoſ. i. hiding a girdle in the bank of Euphrates, Jer. xiii. by breaking a potter's veſſel, Jer. xix. by putting on fetters and yokes. Jer. xxvii. by binding a book to a ſtone, and caſting them both into Euphrates, Jer. li. by beſieging a painted city, Ezek.. iv. by dividing hair into three parts, Ezek. v. by making a chain, Ezek. vii. by carrying out houſehold ſtuff, like a captive and trembling, Ezek. xii. &c. by which kind of types the prophets of old were accuſtomed to expreſs themſelves.

Thus having, in an ample manner, ſet forth the antiquity, meaning and propriety of the uſe of hieroglyphicks, ſymbols, allegory, &c. from the earlieſt times, and among the wiſeſt and beſt of men, if ſuch cuſtoms have been retained by this antient and venerable inſtitution, ſtrange indeed, and deſtitute of reaſon and juſtice muſt they appear, who ſhould make the leaſt objection to ſuch proceedings; ſuch miſtaken cenſurers ſhould be left to the enjoyment of their own ignorance, malevolence and detraction.

The book of Judges informs us, that the Gileadites, made uſe of an expreſſive and diſtinguiſhing mark, when purſued over the river Jordan by the Ephraimites.

The Eſſenes among the Jews (a ſort of Pythagoreans) alſo converſed one with another, by ſigns and words, which they received on their admiſſion, and which were preſerved with care and reverence, as the great characteriſtick of that ſect.

The

The * Greeks likewiſe had a particular method, which before an engagement, was adopted by the general and officers, and by them communicated to the whole army, as a mark of diſtinction to know friends from enemies. It commonly contained ſome good omen, or the name of ſome deity worſhipped by their country; or ſome hero from whom they expected ſucceſs in their enterprizes. And it is judiciouſly remarked by LAERTIUS, that as generals uſe watch-words in order to diſcover their own ſoldiers from an enemy (practiſed in all armies and garriſons at this day.) So it is neceſſary to communicate to the members of a ſociety certain diſtinctions whereby they may diſcover ſtrangers from individuals of their own ſect.

And is it not within the reach of every one's obſervation, that there is a meaning in many acts and geſtures; and that nature has endowed mankind with particular motions to expreſs the various intentions of the mind. We all underſtand ‡ weeping, laughing, ſhrugs, frowns, &c. as forming a ſpecies of univerſal language. Applications are many times made, and a kind of dia-

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* But their indiſcretion in too frequently queſtioning one another, without proper caution, oft cauſed great confuſion among themſelves, and diſcovered the word at laſt to their enemies.

‡ Tears have the weight of a voice. OVID.

logue

logue maintained only by the caſts of the eye * and motions of the adjacent muſcles; and we read even of *feet that ſpeak* †; of a philoſopher, who anſwered an argument only by getting up and walking ‡.

Bending the knees, in adoration of the Deity, is one of the moſt antient cuſtoms, among men. Bowing, or proſtrating the body, is a mark of humiliation. Even joining right hands, is a pledge of fidelity; for *Valerius Maximus* tells us, that the antients had a moral deity, whom they called FIDES, a goddeſs of honeſty or fidelity, and adds, when they promiſed any thing of old, they gave their hand upon it (as we do now) and therefore ſhe is repreſented as giving her hand, and ſometimes as only two hands conjoined. *Chartarius* more fully deſcribes this, by obſerving, that the proper reſidence of faith or fidelity, was thought by the antients to be in the right hand. And therefore this deity, he informs us, was ſometimes repreſented by two right hands joined together; ſometimes by two little images ſhaking each other's right hand; ſo that the right hand was by them held ſacred, and was ſymbolically made uſe of in a ſolemn manner to denote fidelity. And we read in the

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* The eyes, the eye-brows, the forehead, in a word, the whole countenance is a certain tacit ſpeech of the mind. CIC.

† He *ſpeaketh* with his *feet*. (Prov. chap. vi. ver. 13.)

‡ *Sextus Empiricus.*

book

book of Ruth, of particular cuſtoms practiſed among the Iſraelites, whenever they meant to confirm any compact they entered into.

With reſpect to PROBATIONARY DEGREES, the inſtances that might be produced of the antiquity, neceſſity, and general uſe of them, would fill a large volume; ſuffice it here to mention the following.

The philoſophers inform us, that the Egyptian King XOPPER, commanded, that the ſecret of which he was poſſeſſed, ſhould not be divulged to any but thoſe who were found ſkilful in every ſtep they advanced: Alſo the great heathen King XOPHOLET, ordered the grand ſecret of which he was poſſeſſed, to be revealed to none, but to thoſe who after thorough examination, were found to be worthy; and inflicted diſgrace and ſevere puniſhments on thoſe who ſhould tranſgreſs this law.

And if we examine the cuſtoms of the Jews, we ſhall ſee that the Levites had the ſeveral degrees of initiation, conſecration and miniſtration. And in their grand *ſanhedrim*, they had alſo three chief officers, the principal, vice principal, and the *chacam*, (i. e. wiſe man) the laſt two were called aſſiſtant councellors. Their pupils were divided into three diſtinct claſſes, who according to their abilities were from time to time elected to fill up the vacant offices in this great aſſembly.

About the time of our SAVIOUR'S nativity, the eaſtern ſchools uſed a ſet form of diſcipline.

The

The ſcholar was firſt termed diſciple, in reſpect of his learning; a junior in reſpect of his minority; Bachur (i. e. one choſen or elected) in reſpect of his election, and co-aptation into the number of diſciples. And after he had proved himſelf a proficient in their ſtudies, and was thought worthy of ſome degree, by impoſition of hands, he was made a graduate.

At the eaſt end of every ſchool or ſynagogue, the Jews had a cheſt called Aaron (or ark) in which was locked up the pentateuch in manuſcript, wrote on vellum, in ſquare characters, which by expreſs command, was to be delivered to ſuch only as were found to be wiſe among them (2 Eſdr. c. xiv. v. 16.) This method of proceeding was alſo obſerved at the building of SOLOMON's temple, when we know the craftsmen were not to be made Maſters, until that glorious edifice ſhould be compleated, that ſo they might acquire competent ſkill, and be able to give AMPLE PROOF of their qualifications.

Pythagoras, who flouriſhed above 500 years before Chriſt, never permitted a pupil to ſpeak in his ſchool, till he had undergone a probation of five years ſilence.

The Eſſenes* already mentioned, had the following

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* The Eſſenes were men of excellent morals, eminent for their juſtice beyond either Greeks or barbarians, as a virtue that had been a long time their application and ſtudy. JOSEPHUS lib. 18. c. 12.

'Tis

lowing cuſtoms, when a perſon deſired admittance into their ſociety: He was to paſs through proper degrees of probation, before he could be a Maſter of their myſteries; when he was received into the claſs of novices, he was preſented with a white garment, and when he had been long enough to give ſome competent proof of his ſecrecy and virtue, he was admitted to further knowledge, but ſtill he went on with the trial of his integrity and good morals: And at length, being found worthy in every reſpect, was fully admitted into their myſteries; but before he was received as an eſtabliſhed member, he was firſt to bind himſelf by ſolemn obligations and profeſſions, to do juſtice, to do no

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'Tis remarkable, that of the three famous ſects among the Jews, in the days of our LORD, Phariſees, Sadduces and Eſſenes we find, though the firſt two were cenſured by him, the Eſſenes were not.

It is further related of this ſect, they *were above all others ſtrict obſervers of the ſabbath-day; on it they would dreſs no meat, light no fire, remove no veſſels out of their places* &c. (Joſephus, de Bello. lib 1. c 7) Nay more, they obſerved every *ſeventh week a ſolemn pentecoſt* (Philo de vita contemplat.) And if Jews, without any divine injunction in this particular could ſo religiouſly obſerve the Sabbath, how muſt Chriſtians ſtand condemned, who in flat diſobedience to the command of an omnipotent GOD will not devote ſo much as one day in ſeven to honour him who gives them all things? All Free and Accepted Maſons well know how great a violation of our principles every inſtance of ſuch conduct is. And every true Brother will be careful not to offend herein. FOR BY THE FRUIT THE TREE IS KNOWN.

wrong, to keep faith with all men, to embrace the truth, to keep his hand clear from fraudulent dealings, not to conceal from his fellow-profeſſor, any of the myſteries, nor to communicate them to the profane, though it ſhould be to *ſave his life*; to deliver nothing but what he received, as well as to endeavour to preſerve the principles that he profeſſed. Every member eat and drank at one common table, and any Brethren of the ſame fraternity, who came from places ever ſo remote, were ſure to be received at their meetings. (Philo. de Vit. contemplat. Joſeph. antiqu. l. 8. c. 2.)

And it may be further remarked of the Jews, that in the feaſt of the ſeventh month, the High Prieſt was not even permitted to read the law to the people until he had ſtudied it ſeven days, viz. upon the fourth, fifth, ſixth, ſeventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth days, being attended by ſome of the prieſts to hear him perform, and to judge of his qualification for that purpoſe. (Vide * Sir ISAAC NEWTON's Obſervations on the Apocalypſe of ST. JOHN.)

The above proceeding is ſo far from being novel, that it is practiſed in our own nation even at this day, in the learned ſocieties of every denomination: For inſtance, in academical degrees there are, batchelor, maſter, doctor; in the church,

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* Theſe *ſeven days* are alluded to, by the Lamb's opening the *ſeven ſeals* ſucceſſively.

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the ſeveral orders of deacon, prieſt, and biſhop; in the municipal law, thoſe of ſtudent, barriſter and ſerjeant; in the civil law and phyſick, ſtudent, batchelor and doctor; in each of theſe the diſciple or ſcholar undergoes proper examinations, and muſt, or at leaſt ought, to be found well qualified prior to his admiſſion to a ſuperior rank.

And as FREEMASONRY is in like manner a progreſſive ſcience, not to be perfectly attained but by time, patience, and application, how neceſſary is it, that teſtimonies of proper qualifications ſhould be required for the reſpective degrees, before the candidate can attain them; both in regard to ſcience and morality; as the honour of the inſtitution ſhould always be a principal object in view to every Free and Accepted Maſon, who ought to be well inſtructed in the ſcientifick knowledge and moral and ſocial virtues peculiar to an inferior*, ere he will be admitted to the more

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* Was a contrary practice to be adopted in our gradations in the craft, and ſubſequent degrees ſhould be conferred without taking due time to make proper trial of the abilities, proficiency and morality of the candidate; no one acquainted with our conſtitution, would heſitate a moment, to pronounce ſuch practice an evident violation of its principles: And ſhould that ever prove to have been the caſe, it is hoped, thoſe who erred therein, will inform themſelves of the great impropriety of ſuch proceedings; and think it a duty which they owe to the ſociety and to their own honour, to diſcontinue ſuch practice, or they will give cauſe to ſuſpect that they wiſh not to regulate their proceedings by the true plan of Maſonry.

ſublime

ſublime truths of the perfect and well qualified MASON.

The nature of my deſign leads me in the next place to the conſideration of the name which has been adopted by our inſtitution, from its firſt eſtabliſhment; and to inform the unlettered or inattentive Brother, that this did not ariſe merely from our ſkill in architecture, or the principles of building, but from a more comprehenſive acquaintance and knowledge of the ſublimeſt principles of philoſophy and moral virtues; which however excellent they may be in the opinion of the learned and judicious part of mankind, cannot be indiſcriminately revealed to every one; leſt, inſtead of that reſpect which they require, for want of right underſtanding, and a ſound mind, they might not produce their juſt and neceſſary conſequences; as even the pureſt morality and wiſeſt ſyſtems, have been too often ridiculed by the folly or perverſeneſs of weak or wicked men.

Therefore the name of Maſon is not to be conſidered in the contracted implication of a builder of habitations, &c. But figuratively* purſuant to the method of the antient ſociety on which this inſtitution is founded; and taken in this ſenſe, a Maſon is one who by gra-

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* The apoſtles alſo frequently made uſe of this term in the like ſenſe, Acts xx. ver. 32. Epheſ. ii. ver. 22.

dual

dual advances in the ſublime truths and various arts and ſciences which the principles and precepts of Freemaſonry tend to inculcate and eſtabliſh, is raiſed by regular courſes to ſuch a degree of perfection, as to be replete with happineſs himſelf, and extenſively beneficial to others.

As to the appendage free, that evidently owed its riſe to the practice of the antients, who never ſuffered the liberal arts and ſciences to be taught to any but the free-born.

I now preſume I have ſufficiently expoſed and everted all the foregoing allegations. And having alſo traced back to earlieſt ages, the uſe and meaning of ſymbols and hieroglyphicks, and likewiſe fully demonſtrated the original intention and uſe of allegorical figures and ceremonies, and the reaſonableneſs and neceſſity of progreſſive degrees in the purſuit of every art and ſcience, no unprejudiced perſon will think it extraordinary that thoſe cuſtoms and ceremonies eſtabliſhed and connected with our inſtitution, have been moſt ſacredly and inviolably preſerved and adhered to by us to this day. But what ſuch cuſtoms and ceremonies are, for what ends and purpoſes uſed, never can be known except to true and lawful Brethren.

Therefore, however anxious and reſtleſs the buſy and invidious may be, and whatever attempts they may make to traduce our inſtitution and proceedings, or diſcover our myſteries, all their

endeavours

endeavours will prove ineffectual. They will ſtill find, that the only means to attain to the knowledge of our myſteries, are abilities, integrity, firmneſs, and a due and conſtant perſeverance in the great duties of moral and ſocial life, in principles of religion and virtue, and whatever is commendable and praiſe-worthy. THESE are the ſteps, and this the clue that will lead and direct the practiſers of ſuch excellencies to the heights of Freemaſonry; and while they adhere to them, will effectually ſecure them favour and eſteem from every able and faithful Brother, and the warmeſt approbation and ſatisfaction from their own hearts.

APPENDIX.

HAVING ſhewn at what period, and on what plan, FREEMASONRY firſt became a regular inſtitution, I refer my readers to our book of excellent conſtitutions (which no lodge ought to be without) for a particular account of its progreſs in the various parts of the globe ever ſince. But as many may not have time and opportunity to conſult ſo ample a relation, I ſhall, for the benefit of ſuch, take ſome notice here of the firſt eſtabliſhment of Maſonry in this kingdom.

And notwithſtanding the obſcurity which inveloples the hiſtory of the early ages of our country, various * circumſtances contribute to prove that

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* The remains of antient architecture of much earlier date than the Romans, the uſages and cuſtoms of the Druids, ſo exactly agreeable to the uſages of this inſtitution, which probably they gathered from the Magians, &c.

Free-

Freemaſonry was introduced in Britain by the firſt inhabitants, and though many antient records of this inſtitution were either loſt or deſtroyed in the wars of the Saxons and Danes, yet we are ſtill poſſeſſed of ONE, which teſtifies that ſo far back as the reign of King ATHELSTONE, this fraternity were reſtored to, and confirmed in their antient rights and privileges, by a new charter or royal grant of that King, which is recorded in the old conſtitution, and relates that "King ATHELSTONE, the grandſon of ALFRED the Great, a mighty architect, the firſt anointed King of England, and who tranſlated the Holy Bible into the Saxon tongue, when he had brought the land into reſt and peace, built many great works, and encouraged many Maſons from France, who were appointed overſeers thereof, and brought with them the charges and regulations of the lodges, preſerved ſince the Roman times, who alſo prevailed with the King to improve the conſtitution of the Engliſh lodges, according to the foreign model, and to encreaſe the wages of working maſons. That the ſaid King's brother, Prince EDWIN, being taught Maſonry, and taking upon him the charges of a Maſter Maſon, for the love he had to the ſaid craft, and the honourable principles whereon it is founded, purchaſed a free charter of his father for the Maſons to have a correction among themſelves (as it was antiently expreſſed) or a freedom and power to regulate themſelves, to

amend

amend what might happen amiſs within the craft, and to hold a yearly communication, and general aſſembly.

That accordingly Prince EDWIN ſummoned all the Maſons in the realm, to meet him in a congregation at York, in June, A. D. 926. who came and compoſed a general or grand lodge, of which he was Grand Maſter: And having brought with them all the old writings and records of the craft extant, ſome in Greek, ſome in Latin, ſome in French, and other languages, from the contents thereof, that aſſembly framed the conſtitutions and charges of an Engliſh lodge, made a law to preſerve and obſerve the ſame in all time coming, and ordained good pay for the working maſons."

And the craft was greatly encouraged by the Saxon and Daniſh Monarchs, and other eminent and wealthy perſonages in ſucceeding ages; and wholeſome laws and regulations were occaſionally made and eſtabliſhed to promote and render permanent the proſperity, honour and harmony of the fraternity. For it is alſo recorded, that in the glorious reign of King EDWARD the Third, who became the patron of arts and ſciences, the charges and regulations of Maſons were, "reviſed and meliorated, and ſeveral new regulations were ordained;" from which time to the reign of King HENRY the Sixth, Maſonry continued in a flouriſhing ſtate, lodges and communications being more frequently held than ever, and tran-

quility, joy and felicity, univerſally abounded amongſt them.

This happy ſituation of the ſociety proved a ſufficient incitement with the commons of that day to attempt its overthrow, by a general ſuppreſſion of their lodges and communications; and taking advantage of the King's minority, in the third year of his reign, and the fourth of his age, an act was paſſed to prohibit, *their confederating in chapters or congregations.* But the prudent and upright deportment of the Brotherhood, and the excellence of their principles, precepts, and regulations, had gained them ſuch univerſal eſteem, and good-will, that this ſevere edict, the effect of envy and malevolence, in this arbitrary ſet of men, was never once executed, nor did it in the leaſt intimidate the Maſons from holding their aſſemblies, or cauſe them to take any ſteps to get it repealed; conſcious of their own integrity, they dreaded not its force; on the contrary, we find, that in the minority of the ſame King, a very reſpectable lodge was held at Canterbury, and that a coat of arms, much the ſame with that of the London company of freemen-maſons, was uſed by them; whence it is natural to conceive, that the ſaid company is deſcended of the antient fraternity; and that in former times, no man was made free of that company, until he was initiated in ſome lodge of Free and Accepted Maſons, as a neceſſary qualification.

fication*. And it not only appears, that before the troubles which happened in the reign of this unfortunate Prince, Free-Maſons were univerſally eſteemed, but even King HENRY himſelf was made a Maſon in the year 1442, and many Lords and gentlemen of the court, after his example, ſolicited and obtained admiſſion into the fraternity. And by what follows, we find how very intent this Prince was to acquire ſome knowledge of the fundamental principles, hiſtory and traditions of the royal art, even before he was initiated; and from whence may alſo be gathered many of the original principles of the antient ſociety, on which the inſtitution of Freemaſonry was ingrafted.

No doubt but every reader will feel ſome ſatisfaction in looking over this antique relation, though none more ſo than the true and faithful Brother, in obſerving the glimmering conjectures of an unenlightened perſon, upon the fundamental principles, hiſtory and traditions of the royal art, though a philoſopher of as great merit and penetration as this nation ever produced.

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* This is the conſtant practice at this day amongſt the operative maſons in our ſiſter kingdom, Scotland.

A letter from the learned Mr. John Locke, to the Right Hon. Thomas Earl of Pembroke, with an old manuſcript on the ſubject of Freemaſonry.

6th May, 1696.

My LORD,

I Have at length, by the help of Mr. Collins, procured a copy of that M. S. in the Bodleian library, which you were ſo curious to ſee: And, in obedience to your Lordſhip's commands, I herewith ſend it to you. Moſt of the notes annexed to it, are what I made yeſterday for the reading of my Lady Maſham, who is become ſo fond of Maſonry, as to ſay, that ſhe now more than ever wiſhes herſelf a man, that ſhe might be capable of admiſſion into the fraternity.

The M. S. of which this is a copy, appears to be about 160 years old; yet (as your Lordſhip will obſerve by the title) it is itſelf a copy of one yet more antient by about 100 years: For the original is ſaid to have been the hand-writing of K. Henry VI. Where that Prince had it, is at preſent an uncertainty; but it ſeems to me to be an examination (taken perhaps before the King) of ſome one of the Brotherhood of Maſons; among whom he entered himſelf, as it is ſaid, when he came out of his minority, and thenceforth put a ſtop to a perſecution that had been raiſed againſt them: But I muſt not detain your Lordſhip longer, by my preface, from the thing itſelf.

Certayne

Certayne queſtyons, with awnſweres to the ſame, concerning thè myſtery of Maconrye; writtene by the hande of Kynge Henrye the ſixthe of the name, and faithfullye copyed by me (1) Johan Leylande antiquarius, by the commaunde of his (2) highneſſe.

They be as followeth,

Queſt. WHAT mote ytt be? (3)

Anſ. Ytt beeth the ſkylle of nature, the underſtondynge of the myghte that ys hereynne, and its ſondrye werckynges; ſonderlyche, the ſkylle of rectenyngs, of waightes and metynges, and the treu manere of faconnynge al thynges for mannes uſe, headlye, dwellynges, and buyldynges of alle kindes, and al odher thynges that make gudde to manne.

(1) *John Leland* was appointed by Henry VIII. at the diſſolution of monaſteries, to ſearch for, and ſave ſuch books and records as were valuable among them. He was a man of great labour and induſtry.

(2) *His Highneſſe*, meaning the ſaid King Henry VIII. Our Kings had not then the title of Majeſty.

(3) *What mote ytt be?* That is, what may this myſtery of Maſonry be? The anſwer imports, that it conſiſts in natural, mathematical and mechanical knowledge. Some part of which (as appears by what follows) the Maſons pretend to have taught the reſt of mankind, and ſome part they ſhould conceal.

Queſt.

Queſt. Where dyd ytt begyne?

Anſ. Ytt dyd begynne with the (4) fyrſte menne yn the eſte, whych were before the (5) ffyrſte manne of the weſt, and comynge weſtlye, ytt hathe brought herwyth alle comfortes to the wylde and comfortleſſe.

Queſt. Who dyd bringe that weſtlye?

Anſ. The (6) Venetians, whoo beynge grate merchandes, comed ffyrſte ffromme the eſte ynn Venetia, for the commodytye of marchaundy-ſynge beith eſte and weſte, bey the redde and myddlelonde ſees.

Queſt. Howe comede ytt yn Engelonde?

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(4) (5) *Fyrſte menne yn the Eſte*, &c. It ſhould ſeeme by this that Maſons believe there were men in the eaſt before Adam, who is called the ffyrſte manne of the weſt; and that arts, and ſciences began in the eaſt. Some authors of great note for learning have been of the ſame opinion; and it is certain that Europe and Africa (which in reſpect to Aſia, may be called weſtern countries) were wild and ſavage, long after arts and politeneſs of manners were in great perfection in China, and the Indies.

(6) *The Venetians*, &c. In the time of monkiſh ignorance it is no wonder that the Phenicians ſhould be miſtaken for the Venetians. Or, perhaps, if the people were not taken one for the other, ſimilitude of ſound might deceive the clerk who firſt took down the examination. The Phenicians were the greateſt voyagers among the antients, and were in Europe thought to be the inventors of letters, which perhaps they brought from the eaſt with other arts.

Anſw.

Anſ. Peter Gower (7) a Grecian, journeyedde ffor kunnynge yn Egypte, and yn Syria, and yn everyche londe whereas the Venetians hadde plauntedde Maconrye, and wynnynge entraunce yn al lodges of Maconnes, he lerned muche, and retournedde, and woned yn Grecia magna (8) wachſynge, and becommynge a myghtye (9) wyſeacre,

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(7) *Peter Gower.* This muſt be another miſtake of the writer I was puzzled at firſt to gueſs who Peter Gower ſhould be, the name being perfectly Engliſh; or how a Greek ſhould come by ſuch a name: But as ſoon as I thought of Pythagoras, I could ſcarce forbear ſmiling, to find that philoſopher had undergone a metempſycoſis, he never dreamt of. We need only conſider the French pronounciation of his name, Pythagore, that is Petagore, to conceive how eaſily ſuch a miſtake might be made by an unlearned clerk. That Pythagoras travelled for knowledge into Egypt, &c is known to all the learned; and that he was initiated into ſeveral different orders of prieſts, who in thoſe days kept all their learning ſecret from the vulgar, is as well known. Pythagoras alſo, made every geometrical theorem a ſecret, and admitted only ſuch to the knowledge of them, as had firſt undergone a five years ſilence. He is ſuppoſed to be the inventor of the XLVII. propoſition of the firſt book of Euclid, for which, in the joy of his heart, it is ſaid he ſacrificed a hecatomb. He alſo knew the true ſyſtem of the world, lately revived by Copernicus; and was certainly a moſt wonderful man. See his life by Dion Hall.

(8) *Grecia Magna*, a part of Italy formerly ſo called, in which the Greeks had ſettled a large colony.

(9) *Wyſeacre.* This word at preſent ſignifies ſimpleton, but formerly had a quite contrary meaning. Weiſager in the old Saxon, is philoſopher, wiſeman or wizard, and having

wyſeacre, and greatelyche renowned, and her he framed a grate lodge at Groton (10) and maked many Maconnes, ſome whereoffe dyd jeurney yn Fraunce, and maked many Maconnes, where-fromme, yn proceſſe of tyme, the arte paſſed yn Engelonde.

Queſt. Dothe Maconnes deſcouer here artes unto odhers?

Anſ. Peter Gower whenne he journeyedde to lernne, was ffyrſte (11) made, and anonne tech-edde; evenne ſoe ſhulde all odhers beyn recht. Natheleſs (12) Maconnes haueth always yn eve-ryche tyme from tyme to tyme communycatedde

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ing been frequently uſed ironically, at length came to have a direct meaning in the ironical ſenſe. Thus, Duns Scotus, a man famed for the ſubtility and acuteneſs of his underſtanding, has by the ſame method of irony, given a general name to modern dunces.

(10) *Groton.* Groton is the name of a place in England. The place here meant is Crotona, a city of Grecia Magna, which in the time of Pythagoras was very populous.

(11) *Fyrſte made.* The word *made* I ſuppoſe has a particular meaning among the Maſons; perhaps it ſignifies, initiated.

(12) *Maconnes haueth communycatedde* &c. This paragraph hath ſomething remarkable in it. It contains a juſtification of the ſecrecy ſo much boaſted of by Maſons, and ſo much blamed by others; aſſerting that they have in all ages diſcovered ſuch things as might be uſeful, and that they conceal ſuch only as would be hurtful either to the world or themſelves. What theſe ſecrets are, we ſee afterwards.

to mannkynde ſoche of her ſecrettes as generallyche myghte be uſefulle; they haueth keped backe ſoche allein as ſhulde be harmefulle yff they comed yn euylle haundes, oder ſoche as ne myghte be holpynge wythouten the techynges to be joinedde herwythe in the lodge, oder ſoche as do bynde the freres more ſtrongelyche togeder, bey the proffytte and commodytye comyng to the confrerie herfromme.

Queſt. Whatte artes haueth the Maconnes techedde mankynde?

Anſw. The artes (13) agricultura, architectura, aſtronomia, geometria, numeres, muſica, poeſe, kymiſtry, governmente, and relygyonne.

Queſt. Howe commethe Maconnes more teachers than odher menne?

Anſw. The hemſelfe haueth allein in (14) arte of fynding neue artes, whyche arte the

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(13) *The artes, agricultura,* &c. It ſeems a bold pretence this of the Maſons, that they have taught mankind all theſe arts. They have their own authority for it; and I know not how we ſhall diſprove them. But what appears moſt odd, is, that they reckon religion among the arts

(14) *Arte of ffynding neue artes.* The art of inventing arts, muſt certainly be a moſt uſeful art. My Lord Bacon's *Novum Organum* is an attempt towards ſomething of the ſame kind. But I much doubt, that if ever the Maſons had it, they have now loſt it; ſi ce ſo few new arts have been lately invented, and ſo many are wanted. The idea I have of ſuch an art is, that it muſt be ſomething proper to be applied in all the ſciences, generally, as algebra is in numbers, by the help of which, new rules of arithmetic are, and may be found.

ffyrſte Maconnes receaued from Godde; by the whyche they fyndethe whatte artes hem plefethe, and the treu way of techynge the ſame. Whatt odher menne doethe ffynde out, ys onelythe bey chaunce, and therefore but lytel I tro.

Queſt. Whatte dothe the Maconnes concele and hyde?

Anſw. They concelethe the art of ffyndynge neue artes, and thattys for her own proffytte, and (15) preiſe: They concelethe the art of kepynge (16) ſecrettes, thatt ſoe the worlde mayeth nothinge concele from them. They concelethe the art of wunderwerckynge, and of foreſayinge thynges to come, thatt ſo thay ſame artes may not be uſedde of the wyckedde to an euyell ende; they alſo concelethe the (17) arte of chaunges, the wey of wynnynge the

(15) *Preiſe.* It ſeems the Maſons have great regard to the reputation as well as the profit of their order; ſince they make it one reaſon for not divulging an art in common, that it may do honour to the poſſeſſors of it. I think in this particular they ſhew too much regard for their own ſociety, and too little for the reſt of mankind.

(16) *Arte of keeping ſecretes.* What kind of an art this is, I can by no means imagine. But certainly ſuch an art the Maſons muſt have: For though, as ſome people ſuppoſe, they ſhould have no ſecret at all, even that muſt be a ſecret which being diſcovered, would expoſe them to the higheſt ridicule; and therefore it requires the utmoſt caution to conceal it.

(17) *Arte of chaunges.* I know not what this means, unleſs it be the tranſmutation of metals.

facul-

facultye (18) of Abrac, the ſkylle of becommynge gude and perfyghte wythouten the holpynges of fere, and hope; and the univerſelle (19) longage of Maconnes.

Queſt. Wylle he teche me thay ſame artes?

Anſw. Ye ſhalle be techedde yff ye be warthye, and ablé to lerne.

Queſt. Dothe all Maconnes kunne more then odher menne?

Anſw. Not ſo. Thay onlyché haueth recht and occaſyonne more then odher menne to kunne, but many doeth fale yn capacity, and

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(18) *Facultye of Abrac.* Here I am utterly in the dark.

(19) *Univerſelle longage of Maconnes.* An univerſal language has been much deſired by the learned of many ages. It is a thing rather to be wiſhed than hoped for. But it ſeems the Maſons pretend to have ſuch a thing among them. If it be true, I gueſs it muſt be ſomething like the language of the Pantomines, among the antient Romans, who are ſaid to be able, by ſigns only, to expreſs and deliver any oration intelligibly to men of all nations and languages. A man who has all theſe arts and advantages, is certainly in a condition to be envied: But we are told, that this is not the caſe with all Maſons; for though theſe arts are among them, and all have a right and opportunity to know them, yet ſome want capacity, and others induſtry to acquire them. However, of all their arts and ſecrets, that which I deſire moſt to know is, *The ſkyle of becommynge gude and perſyghte*; and I wiſh it were communicated to all mankind, ſince there is nothing more true than the beautiful ſentence contained in the laſt anſwer, "The better men are, the more they love one another." Virtue having in itſelf ſomething ſo amiable as to charm the hearts of all that behold it.

manye more doth want induſtrye, thatt ys perneceſſary for the gaynynge all kunnynge.

Queſt. Are Maconnes gudder men then odhers?

Anſw. Some Maconnes are not ſo vertuous as ſome other menne; but yn the moſte parte, thay be more gude than thay woulde be yf thay war not Maconnes.

Queſt. Doth Maconnes love eidther odher myghtylye as beeth fayde?

Anſw. Yea verylyche, and yt may not odherwiſe be: For gude menne and treu, kennynge eidher odher to be ſoche, doeth always love the more as thay be more gude.

[*Here endethe the queſtyonnes, and awnſwers.*]

I know not what effect the ſight of this old paper may have upon your Lordſhip; but for my own part I cannot deny, that it has ſo much raiſed my curioſity, as to induce me to enter myſelf into the fraternity, which I am determined to do (if I may be admitted) the next time I go to London, and that will be ſhortly.

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient,

And moſt humble ſervant,

JOHN LOCKE.

A Gloſ-

A Gloſſary to explain the old words in the foregoing manuſcript.

ALLEIN, only
Alwcys, always
Beithe, both
Commodytye, conveniency
Confrerie, fraternity
Faconnynge, forming
Fore-ſayinge, prophecying
Freres, brethren
Headlye, chiefly
Hem pleſethe, they pleaſe
Hemſelfe, themſelves
Her, there, their
Hereynne, therein
Herwyth, with it
Hotpynge, beneficial
Kunne, know
Kunnynge, knowledge
Make gudde, are beneficial
Metynges, meaſures
Mote, may
Myddlelonde, Mediterranean
Myghte, power
Occaſyonne, opportunity
Oder, or
Onelyche, only
perneceſſarye, abſolutely neceſſary
Preiſe, honour
Recht, right,
Reckenyngs, numbers
Sonderlyche, particularly
Skylle, knowledge
Wackſynge, growing
Werck, operation
Wey, way
Whereas, where
Woned, dwelt
Wunderwerckynge. working miracles
Wylde, ſavage
Wynnynge, gaining
Ynn, into

It would be next to an impoſſibility to enumerate all the Royal, Noble, and eminent perſonages, who have thought it no diminution of their dignities to protect and patronize the craft, and to preſide as GRAND MASTERS over the fraternity in different parts of the globe. However, the following catalogue of thoſe who have ſat in SOLOMON's chair in this kingdom*, together with their DEPUTIES and provincial GRAND MASTERS for near 50 years paſt, may not be unacceptable to the reader, and at the ſame time muſt put to ſilence and ſhame any who look upon Freemaſonry, as a trifling inſtitution.

1721. John Montague, Duke of Montague, Grand Maſter.

John Beal, Dr. of Phyſic, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1722. Philip Wharton, Duke of Wharton, Grand Maſter.

J. Theo. Deſaguliers, L. L. D. and F. R. S. Deputy Grand Maſter.

1723. F. Scott, E. of Dalkieth, late Duke of Buccleugh, Grand Maſter.

J. Theo. Deſaguliers, L. L. D. and F. R. S. Deputy Grand Maſter.

1724 C. Lenox, Duke of Richmond, Lenox, and Aubigny, Grand Maſter.

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* For the Grand Maſters in Scotland, vide further on.

Martin Folkes, Esq; Deputy Grand Master.

1725. J. Hamilton, Lord Paisley, now E. of Abercorn, Grand Master.

J. Theo. Desaguliers, L. L. D. and F. R. S. Deputy Grand Master.

1726. William Obrian, Earl of Inchiquin, Grand Master.

William Cowper, Esq; Deputy Grand Master.

1727. Henry Hare, Lord Coleraine, Grand Master.

Alexander Chocke, Esq; Deputy Grand Master.

1728. James King, Lord Kingston, Grand Master.

Nathaniel Blackerby, Esq; Deputy Grand Master.

1729-30. Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, Grand Master.

Nathaniel Blackerby, Esq; Deputy Grand Master.

1731. T. Cooke, Lord Lovel, afterwards Earl of Leicester, Grand Master.

Thomas Batson, Esq; Deputy Grand Master.

1732. Anthony Brown, Lord Visc. Montacute, Grand Master.

Thomas Batson, Esq; Deputy Grand Master.

1733. James Lyon, Earl of Strathmore, Grand Master.

Thomas Batson, Esq; Deputy Grand Master.

1734. John Lindsay, E. of Crawford, Primier Earl of Scotland, Grand Master.

Sir Cecil Wray, Bart. Deputy Grand Master.

1735.

1735. Thomas Thynne, Lord Viſc. Weymouth, Grand Maſter.

John Ward, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1736. John Campbell, Earl of Loudoun, Grand Maſter.

John Ward, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1737. Edward Bligh, Earl of Darnley, Grand Maſter.

John Ward, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1738. H. Bridges, Marq. of Carnarvon, now D. of Chandos, Grand Maſter.

John Ward, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1739. Robert Raymond, Lord Raymond, Grand Maſter.

William Græme, Dr. of Phyſic, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1740. John Keith, E. of Kintore, Grand Maſter,

William Græme, Dr. of Phyſic, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1741-2. J. Douglaſs, E. of Morton, Knight of the Thiſtle, Grand Maſter.

Martin Clare, M. A. and F. R. S. Deputy Grand Maſter.

1743-4. John Ward, now Lord Viſcount Dudley and Ward, Grand Maſter.

Sir Robert Lawley, Bart. Deputy Grand Maſter.

1745-6. Thomas Lyon, Earl of Strathmore, Grand Maſter.

William Vaughan, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1747-8

1747-8. James Cranſtoun, Lord Cranſtoun, Grand Maſter.

Edward Hody, Dr. of Phyſic, and F. R. S. Deputy Grand Maſter.

1749-50-1. William Byron, Lord Byron, Grand Maſter.

Fotherley Baker, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1752. John Proby, Lord Carysfort, Grand Maſter.

Thomas Manningham, Dr. of Phyſic, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1754. James Bridges, Marq. of Carnarvon, (ſon and heir to Henry Duke of Chandos, formerly Grand Maſter) Grand Maſter.

Thomas Manningham, Dr. of Phyſic, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1757. Sholto Charles Douglaſs, Lord Aberdour, now Earl of Morton, Grand Maſter.

Mr. John Revis, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1762. Waſhington Shirley, Earl Ferrers, Grand Maſter.

Mr. John Revis, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1764. Cadwallader, Lord Blaney, Grand Maſter.

Col. John Salter, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1767. Henry Bridges, Duke of Beaufort, Grand Maſter.

The Honourable Charles Dillon, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

DEPUTATIONS for PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS were granted,

In 1726, by Lord Paiſley, Grand Maſter,
To Sir Edward Manſell, Bart. for South Wales.
Hugh Warburton, Eſquire, for North Wales.

In 1728, by Lord Kingſton, Grand Maſter,
To George Pomfret, Eſquire, for Bengal, in the Eaſt-Indies.

In 1729, by the Duke of Norfolk, Grand Maſter,
To Captain Ralph Farwinter, for the Eaſt-Indies.
Monſieur Thuanus, for the Circle of Lower Saxony.
Mr. Daniel Cox, for New-Jerſey, in America.

In 1731, by Lord Lovell, late Earl of Leiceſter, Grand Maſter,
To Captain John Phillips, for all the Ruſſias.
Captain James Commerford, for the Province of Andaluſia, in Spain.
Sir Edward Matthews for Shropſhire.

In 1734, by the Earl of Crawfurd, Grand Maſter,
To Edward Entwizle, Eſquire for Lancaſhire.
Joſeph Laycock, Eſquire for Durham.
Matthew Ridley, Eſquire, for Northumberland.

In 1736, by the Earl of Loudoun, Grand Maſter,
To Robert Tomlinſon, Eſquire, for N. England.
John Hammerton, Eſquire, for South Carolina.

David

David Creighton, M. D. for Cape Coaſt in Africa.

In 1737, by the Earl of Darnley, Grand Maſter,
To James Watſon, Eſquire, for the Iſland of Montſerrat.
George Hamilton, Eſquire, for the State of Geneva.
Henry William Marſhalch, Eſquire, Hereditary Mareſchal of Thuringia, for Upper Saxony.
William Douglas, Eſquire, for the Coaſt of Africa and Iſlands of America, where no particular deputation had been granted.
Richard Riggs, Eſquire, for New-York.

In 1738, by the Marquis of Carnarvon, now Duke of Chandois, Grand Maſter,
To William Horton, Eſquire, for the Weſt Riding of the County of York.
His Excellency Governor Matthew, for the Leeward Iſlands.

In 1739, by Lord Raymond, Grand Maſter,
To the Marquis Des Marches, for Savoy and Piedmont.

In 1740, by the Earl of Kintore, Grand Maſter,
To his Excel. James Keith, for all the Ruſſias.
Matthew Albert Luttman, Eſquire, for Hamburgh, and the Circle of Lower Saxony.
Edward Rooke, Eſquire, for the Weſt Riding of the County of York, in the room of William Horton, Eſquire deceaſed.

Thomas Baxter, Eſquire, his Majeſty's Attorney-General, for the Iſland of Barbadoes, and of the Iſlands to the windward of Guardaloup.

In 1742, by Lord Ward, now Viſcount Dudley, Grand Maſter,

To Mr. William Ratchdale, for the County of Lancaſter.

Ballard Beckford, George Hynde, and Alexander Crawford, Eſquires, for the Iſland of Jamaica.

Thomas Oxnard, Eſquire, for North-America.

In 1744, by the Earl of Strathmore, Grand Maſter,

To Alured Popple, Eſquire, for Bermudas.

In 1746, by Lord Cranſtoun, Grand Maſter,

To Captain Commins, for Cape-Breton and Louiſburgh.

In 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, by Lord Byron, Grand Maſter,

To William Allen, Eſquire, Recorder, of Philadelphia, for Pennſylvania, in America.

Count Denneſkiold Laurwig, for Denmark and Norway.

Lieutenant Colonel James Adolphus Oughton, for the Iſland of Minorca.

Francis Goelet, Eſquire, for the Province of New-York.

In 1752, 1753, by L. Carysfort, Grand Maſter,

To william Pye, Eſquire, for the County of Cornwall.

James

James Montriſor, Eſquire, for Gibraltar.
His Excellency Governor Tinker, for the Bahama Iſlands.
Sir Robert de Cornwall, Baronet, for the Counties of Worceſter, Glouceſter, Salop, Monmouth, and Hereford.
George Harriſon, Eſquire, for the Province of New-York.
Thomas Dorree, Eſquire, for Guernſey, Jerſey, Alderney, Sark, and Arme, in the Britiſh Channel.

In 1754, 1755, by the Marquis of Carnarvon, Grand Maſter,

To Peter Leigh, Eſquire, Chief Juſtice of South-Carolina, for South-Carolina.
David Jones Gwynne, of Talliaries, Eſquire, for South-Wales, in the room of Sir Edward Manſell.
The Reverend and Honourable Frances Byam, D. D. for Antigua.
The Honourable Roger Drake, Eſquire, at Bengal, for Eaſt-India.
Jeremiah Gridley, Eſquire, for all North-America, where no Provincial is appointed.
William Maynard, Eſquire, for Barbadoes, and all other his Majeſty's Iſlands to the windward of Guardaloup.
Edward Galliard, Eſquire, for St. Euſtatius, Saba, and St. Martin, Dutch Carribbee Iſlands in America.

John

John Head, Gent. Collector of the Customs at Scilly, for Scilly, and the adjacent Islands.

Jobst Anthony Hinuber, for all his Majesty's Dominions in Germany, with a power to choose Successors.

John Page, of Hawthorn, Esquire, for the County Palatine of Chester, and the City and County of Chester.

In 1758, 1759, 1760, by Lord Aberdour, Grand Master,

To William Jarvis, Esquire, for Antigua.

Edward Bacon, Esquire, for Norwich, and the County of Norfolk.

James Bradford, Esquire, for the Bahama Islands.

Gottfried Jacob Jenisch, M. D. for Hamburgh and Lower Saxony.

John Smith, Esquire, for the County of Lancaster.

Grey Elliot, Esquire, for Georgia.

In 1761, 1762, by Lord Carysfort, Grand Master,

To William Vaughan, Esquire for North-Wales.

John Lewis, for Andalusia, and places adjacent.

Benjamin Smith, Esquire, for Carolina.

Thomas Marriott Perkins, Esquire, for the Musqueta Shore.

In

In 1763, by Earl Ferrers, Grand Maſter,
To Cutting Smith, Eſquire, for Eaſt-India.
Thomas Marriott Perkins, Eſquire for Jamaica.

In 1764, 1765, by Lord Blaney, Grand Maſter,
To Captain John Blewitt, for Eaſt-India, where no other is appointed.
Doctor Dyonyſius Manaſſe, for Armenia.
George Auguſtus, Baron of Hammerſtein, for Weſtphalia.
James Tod, Eſquire, for Bombay.
Erneſt Siegmond de Leſtwitz, for the Dukedom of Brunſwick.
His Excellency Robert Melville, Eſquire, for the Greater and Leſſer Granadoes, St. Vincent, Dominica, Tobago, &c.
Millborne Weſt, Eſq; for Canada.
John Stone, Eſquire for Barbadoes.
John George Henry Count de Werthen, for Upper Saxony.

In 1767, by his Grace Henry Duke of Beaufort, Grand Maſter.
John Smith, Eſquire, (Member of Parliament) for Somerſetſhire,
The Honourable Boyle Walſingham, (Member of Parliament) for Kent.
J. J. De Vignoles, for foreign lodges, where no Provincial is appointed.

An Account of the Eſtabliſhment of the preſent GRAND LODGE *of* SCOTLAND.

THE fraternity of FREEMASONS in Scotland always owned their King and Sovereign as their Grand Maſter: To his authority they ſubmitted all diſputes that happened among the Brethren. When not a Maſon himſelf, he appointed one of the Brethren to preſide as his deputy at all their meetings, and to regulate all matters concerning the craft. Accordingly we find James I. 1430. that patron of learning, countenancing the lodges with his preſence, " as the Royal Grand Maſter; till he ſettled " an yearly revenue of four pounds Scots, to " be paid by every Maſter Maſon in Scotland, " to a Grand Maſter choſen by the Brethren, " and approved of by the crown, one nobly " born, or an eminent clergyman, who had " his deputies in cities and counties; and eve- " ry new Brother, at entrance, paid him alſo a " fee. His office empowered him to regulate

" in

" in the fraternity what ſhould not come under " the cognizance of law-courts ; to him appeal- " ed both Maſon and Lord, or the builder and " founder, when at variance, in order to pre- " vent law-pleas ; and in his abſence they ap- " pealed to his Deputy or Grand Wardens that " reſided next to the premiſes."

1441. William St. Clair, Earl of Orkney and Caithneſs, Baron of Roſlin, &c. &c. got a grant of this office from King James II. He countenanced the lodges with his preſence, propagated the royal art, and built the chapel of Roſlin, that maſter-piece of Gothic architecture. Maſonry now began to ſpread its benign influence through the country, and many noble and ſtately buildings were reared by the Prince and Nobles during the time of Grand Maſter Roſlin. by another deed of the ſaid King James II. this office was made hereditary to the ſaid William St. Clair, and his heirs and ſucceſſors in the Barony of Roſlin ; in which noble family it has continued without any interruption till of late years. The Barons of Roſlin have ever ſince continued to prove the patrons of Maſonry, in countenancing the lodges, determining in all matters of difference amongſt the brethren, and ſupporting with becoming dignity the character of Grand Maſter Maſon over all Scotland. They held their head court (or in Maſon ſtyle) aſſembled their grand lodge at Kilwinning, in the weſt country, where it is preſumed Maſons firſt began in Scotland to

hold regular and ſtated lodges. Nay, it is even alledged, that in this * place the royal art firſt made its appearance, and the Brethren, meeting here with hoſpitality and protection, formed themſelves into a lodge; and their peaceable behaviour, their hoſpitable and generous diſpoſitions, recommending them to the notice of the country, they were ſoon aſſociated by the great and wealthy from all parts. In proceſs of time the craft became more numerous, and lodges more frequent throughout the country; the lodge of Kilwinning, under authority of the noble Grand Maſters, granting charters of erection and conſtitution to the Brethren to form themſelves into regular lodges, always under the proper proviſions and reſtrictions, for their adhering to the ſtrict principles of true old Maſonry, and preſerving amongſt themſelves that harmony and union which ought, and always has ſubſiſted amongſt the fraternity.

Such continued to be the ſtate of Maſonry whilſt the family of Roſlin were in flouriſhing and proſperous circumſtances: But that once opulent and noble family, thro' their too great generoſity, falling back in the world, the preſent re-

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* Thoſe who mean any thing *more* by *Kilwinning* Maſons, than that they are of the body of Maſons, which *firſt* formed themſelves into a regular inſtitution at *Kilwinning*, muſt be miſtaken. The *grand lodge* at *Edinburgh* always toaſt the lodge of *Kilwinning* as their *mother lodge*.

preſentative

preſentative William St. Clair, of Roſlin, Eſq; (a real Maſon, and a gentleman of the greateſt candour and benevolence, inheriting his predeceſſors virtues without their fortune) was obliged to diſpone the eſtate; and, having no children of his own, was loth that the office of Grand Maſter, now veſted in his perſon, ſhould become vacant at his death; more eſpecially, as there was but ſmall proſpect of the Brethren of this country receiving any countenance or protection from the crown (to whom the office naturally reverted, at the failure of the Roſlin family) as in antient days, our Kings and Princes continually reſiding in England.

Upon theſe conſiderations (October 15, 1736) having aſſembled the Brethren of the lodges in and about Edinburgh, Grand Maſter St. Clair repreſented to them how beneficial it would be to the cauſe of Maſonry in general to have a Grand Maſter, a Gentleman or Nobleman of their own country, one of their own electing, to patronize and protect the craft; and that, as hereditary Grand Maſter over all Scotland, he had called this meeting, in order to condeſcend on a proper plan for electing of a Grand Maſter; and that in order to promote ſo laudable a deſign, he propoſed to reſign into the hands of the Brethren, or whomſoever they ſhould be pleaſed to elect, all right, claim, or title whatever, which he or his ſucceſſors have to reign as Grand Maſter over the Maſons in Scotland; and recommended to the

Brethren to look out for a Nobleman or Gentleman, one of the craft, fit to ſucceed his noble predeceſſors, a man qualified to patronize and protect the ſociety, and ſupport the character of Grand Maſter with the honour and dignity becoming that high ſtation; and concluded with recommending to them unanimity, harmony, and brotherly love, in all their proceedings thereanent.

The Brethren taking into conſideration what the Grand Maſter had above repreſented, reſolved upon proper rules and regulations, to be obſerved in the election of a Grand Maſter againſt St. ANDREW's day next; and that they might not be ſaid to take any ſtep without the countenance and approbation of the more diſtant lodges, they ordered the following letter to be wrote to all the lodges throughout Scotland, inviting them to appear, by themſelves or proxies, in order to concur in promoting ſo laudable a ſcheme.

BRETHREN,

" THE four lodges in and about Edinburgh
" having taken to their ſerious conſide-
" ration, the great loſs that Maſonry has ſuſtain-
" ed thro' the want of a Grand Maſter, autho-
" rized us to ſignify to you, our good and worthy
" Brethren, our hearty deſire and firm intention
" to chooſe a Grand Maſter for Scotland; and
" in order the ſame may be done with the greateſt
" harmony, we hereby invite you (as we have

" done

" done all the other regular lodges known by
" us) to concur in ſuch a great and good work,
" whereby it is hoped Maſonry may be reſtored
" to its antient luſtre in this kingdom: And
" for effectuating this laudable deſign, we hum-
" bly deſire, that betwixt this and Martinmas day
" next, you will be pleaſed to give us a brotherly
" anſwer in relation to the election of a Grand
" Maſter, which we propoſe to be on St. An-
" drew's day, for the firſt time, and ever there-
" after to be on St. John the Baptiſt's day, or
" as the grand lodge ſhall appoint by the majo-
" rity of voices, which are to be collected
" from the Maſters and Wardens of all the regu-
" lar lodges then preſent, or by proxy to any
" Maſter Maſon or Fellow Craft in any lodge in
" Scotland: And the election is to be in Ma-
" ry's Chapel. All that is hereby propoſed, is for
" the advancement and proſperity of Maſonry
" in its greateſt and moſt charitable perfection.
" We hope and expect a ſuitable return; where-
" in if any lodge are defective, they have them-
" ſelves only to blame. We heartily wiſh you
" all manner of ſucceſs and proſperity, and ever
" are, with great reſpect, your affectionate and
" loving Brethren, &c."

(Mary's Chapel, Nov. 30, 1736.)

This day being appointed for the election of a Grand Maſter and other officers to compoſe the grand lodge of Scotland, the following lodges appeared by themſelves or proxies, viz.

Mary's

Mary's Chapel,
Kilwinning,
Canongate Kilwinning,
Kilwinning Scots arms,
Kilwinning Leith,
Kilwinning Glaſgow,
Cupar of Fife,
Linlithgow,
Dumfermline,
Dundee,
Dalkieth,
Aitcheſon's haven,
Selkirk,
Inverneſs,
Laſmahego,
St. Bride's at Douglas,
Strathaven,
Hamilton,
Lanerk,
Dunſe,
Kirkaldie,
Journeymen Maſons, Edin.
Kirkentulloch,
Biggar,
Sanquhar,
Peebles,
Glaſgow St. Mungo's,
Greenock,
Falkirk,
Aberdeen,
Canongate and Leith,
Leith and Canongate,
Montroſe.

When the lodge was duly met, and the rolls called over, there was produced the following reſignation of the office of Grand Maſter, by William St. Clair, of Roſlin, Eſq; in favour of the Brethren, or whomſoever they ſhould be pleaſed to elect to that high office.

" I William St. Clair, of Roſlin, Eſq; taking " to my conſideration, that the Maſons in " Scotland did, by ſeveral deeds, conſtitute and " appoint William and Sir William St. Clairs, of " Roſlin, my anceſtors, and their heirs, to be " their patrons, protectors, judges or maſters; " and that my holding or claiming any ſuch ju-

" riſdiction,

" riſdiction, right or privilege, might be preju-
" dicial to the craft and vocation of Maſonry,
" whereof I am a member; and I being deſirous
" to advance and promote the good and utility
" of the ſaid craft of Maſonry to the utmoſt of
" my power, do therefore hereby, for me and
" my heirs, renounce, quit claim, overgive and
" diſcharge all right, claim or pretence that I,
" or my heirs, had, have, or any ways may have,
" pretend to, or claim, to be patron, protector,
" judge or Maſter of the Maſons in Scotland, in
" virtue of any deed or deeds made and granted
" by the ſaid Maſons, or of any grant or charter
" made by any of the Kings of Scotland, to and
" in favours of the ſaid William and Sir William
" St. Clairs of Roſlin, my predeceſſors; or any
" other manner of way whatſoever, for now
" and ever: And I bind and oblige me, and my
" heirs, to warrant this preſent renunciation and
" diſcharge at all hands: And I conſent to the
" regiſtration hereof in the books of council and
" ſeſſion, or any other judges books competent;
" therein to remain for preſervation; and there-
" to I conſtitute

my procurators, &c.

" in witneſs whereof I have ſubſcribed theſe pre-
" ſents (written by David Maul, writer to the
" ſignet) at Edinburgh, the twenty fourth day
" of November, one thouſand ſeven hundred
" and thirty ſix years, before theſe witneſſes,
" George Fraſer, deputy-auditor of the exciſe

" in

" in Scotland, Maſter of the Canongate lodge,
" and William Montgomery, merchant in Leith,
" Maſter of the Leith lodge.

WM. ST. CLAIR.

Geo. Fraſer, Canongate Kilwinning, witneſs,
Wm. Montgomery, Leith Kilwinning, witneſs.

Which, being read, was ordered to be recorded in the books to be hereafter kept in the grand lodge of Scotland.

After this the Brethren proceeded to the election of a Grand Maſter; and, in conſideration of his noble and antient family, for the zeal he himſelf had now ſhown for the good and proſperity of the craft, they thought they could not confer that high honour upon any Brother better qualified, or more properly entitled, than William St. Clair, of Roſlin, Eſq; whoſe anceſtors had ſo long preſided over the Brethren, and had ever acquitted themſelves with honour and with dignity. Accordingly,

By an unanimous voice, William St. Clair, of Roſlin, Eſq; was proclaimed Grand Maſter Maſon of all Scotland, and being placed in the chair, was inſtalled, ſaluted, homaged, and acknowledged as ſuch.

Now we come to thoſe halcyon days, when Maſonry began to flouriſh in Scotland, in harmony, reputation and numbers; and many Noblemen and Gentlemen of the firſt rank, beſides other learned men, merchants, clergymen and tradeſmen, deſired to be admitted into the fraternity;

ternity; and finding a lodge to be a ſafe and pleaſant relaxation from intenſe ſtudy or hurry of buſineſs, without politics or party, took great pleaſure and delight therein.

We ſhall now proceed to the recital of thoſe great perſonages who have thought it their honour, to preſide as Grand Maſters, or other officers of the grand lodge; and we congratulate the Brethren on the happy proſpect they ſtill have of honourable and worthy Brothers ſucceeding to SOLOMON's chair; and preſiding as Grand Maſters over them; under whoſe benign influence, may the craft continue to flouriſh and increaſe; may they be eminent and diſtinguiſhed amongſt mankind, for harmony and virtue, as belonging to a ſociety dedicated for promoting theſe great and valuable purpoſes.

Nov. 30, 1736. William St. Clair, of Roſlin, Eſq; Grand Maſter.

Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1737. George Earl of Cromarty, Grand Maſter.

Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1738. John Earl of Kintore, Grand Maſter.

Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1739. James Earl of Morton, Grand Maſter.

Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1740. Thomas Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorn, Grand Maſter.

Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1741. Alexander Earl of Leven, Grand Maſter.

Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1742. William E. of Kilmarnock, Grand Maſter.
Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1743. James E. of Weemyſs, Grand Maſter.
Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1744. James E. of Murray, Grand Maſter.
Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1745. Henry David E. of Buchan, Grand Maſter.
Captain John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1746. William Neſbit, of Dirleton, Eſq; Grand Maſter.
Major John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1747. Francis Charteris, of Amesfield, Eſq; Grand Maſter.
Major John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1748. Hugh Seton, of Touch, Eſq; Grand Maſter.
Major John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1749. Thomas Lord Erſkine, Grand Maſter.
Major John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1750. Alexander E. of Eglington, Grand Maſter.
Major John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1751. James Lord Boyd, Grand Maſter.
Colonel John Young, Deputy Grand Maſter.
1752. George Drummond, Eſq; Grand Maſter.
Charles Hamilton-Gordon, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.
1753. C. Hamilton-Gordon, Eſq; Grand Maſter.
Joſeph Williams, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.
1754. James Maſter of Forbes, Grand Maſter.

David

David Dalrymple, Eſq, Deputy Grand Maſter.

1755. Sholto Charles Douglas, Lord Aberdour, Grand Maſter.

George Fraſer, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1756. Sholto Charles Douglas, Lord Aberdour, Grand Maſter.

George Fraſer, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1757. Alexander E. of Galloway, Grand Maſter.

George Fraſer, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1758. Alexander E. of Galloway, Grand Maſter.

George Fraſer, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1759. David E. of Leven, Grand Maſter.

George Fraſer, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1760. David E. of Leven, Grand Maſter.

George Fraſer, Eſq; Deputy Grand Maſter.

1761. Charles Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Grand Maſter.

1763. Alex. Erſkine, E. of Kelly, Grand Maſter.

1765. James Stewart, Eſq; Provoſt of Edinburgh, Grand Maſter.

1767. The R. H. E. of Dalhouſie, Grand Maſter.

1769. His Excellency Jas. Adolphus Oughton, Major General of the forces in Scotland, Grand Maſter.

The ſpirit, dignity, and decorum with which the craft is conducted in our ſiſter-kingdom, Scotland, are truly great; and the practice of holding lodges in buildings erected intirely for that purpoſe; or, in ſpacious rooms in private houſes, ſet apart for that uſe ſolely (which univer-

ſally prevails through the whole country) is highly commendable: Muſt it not therefore give ſingular pleaſure to every good Maſon in this kingdom, to find that our noble and worthy Grand Maſter, (whoſe zeal for the dignity and proſperity of Maſonry never was exceeded by any of his predeceſſors) has propoſed a plan for the laudable purpoſe of raiſing a fund to build a hall, and purchaſe jewels and furniture for the uſe of the GRAND LODGE, independent of the fund of charity? The reaſons produced in ſupport of this ſcheme are numerous; and, among others, thoſe contained in the following letter are worthy regard; and, notwithſtanding this letter came to hand previous to the Grand Maſter's propoſal, ſtill it may not be improper to inſert it here, as it breathes the true ſpirit of Maſonry, and contains very reaſonable arguments in ſupport of this ſcheme, and alſo, as I am perſuaded that this treatiſe will be read by many Maſons, who, on account of their not frequenting lodges, might otherwiſe remain unacquainted with ſo noble a deſign, and thereby loſe the opportunity of gratifying themſelves by contributing towards it.

To Mr. WELLINS CALCOTT.

Windſor, October 1ſt, 1768.

SIR and BROTHER,

I Underſtand we ſhall ſoon be favoured with your maſonic treatiſe, and ſhall eſteem myſelf

ſelf obliged, if you will afford me that opportunity to recall the attention of our worthy Brethren to an object which well deſerves their ſerious conſideration: I mean the erection of a commodious building, for the particular, as well as general aſſemblies of the ſociety.

A propoſal for this purpoſe was made in the reign of Grand Maſter FERRERS; but to whatever cauſe it then owed its miſcarriage, I beg leave to promote ſo laudable an intention, by making the neceſſity and utility of it more generally known, through the means of your publication. I therefore take my pen, as an auxiliary to Mr. Edmonds, who firſt publiſhed ſuch a deſign; and though I am not acquainted with that gentleman, I honour him for his zeal, and approve moſt of his ſentiments on this ſubject.

Is it not greatly to be lamented, that a ſociety ſo numerous, and ſo highly honoured in its members (being in a great degree compoſed of perſons of rank and fortune) ſhould, as oft as they have occaſion for general meetings, be obliged to reſort to taverns, or to hire halls of inferior communities, and thoſe at the beſt, very ill adapted for ſuch meetings; as all places muſt generally be, that are not particularly conſtructed for *our* purpoſe.

Give me leave to ſay, it reflects great diſhonour on this country, juſtly ſtiled "The grand local ſtandard of Maſonry." As Engliſhmen! we ſhould bluſh to be told, that in every other nation

nation in Europe, they hold their lodges in buildings erected and adorned for their particular uſe, and that only. I can appeal to your own experience of the lodges in our ſiſter-kingdom, Scotland, for one inſtance; of whoſe proceedings I have oft heard you make honourable mention, particularly taking notice that they aſſembled in buildings which were their own property, ſet apart for that purpoſe alone, whereby they not only were ſecured from every danger of moleſtation, or the inſults and diſreſpectful treatment of publicans, but accumulated conſiderable funds.

Beſides, our meeting at the houſes of publicans, gives us the air of a *Bacchanalian* ſociety, inſtead of that appearance of gravity and wiſdom, which our order juſtly requires.

How properly might it be remarked on ſuch conduct, that as almoſt all the companies that reſort with ſo much formality to the city-halls, have in view chiefly feaſting and jollity. So Maſons aſſemble with an air of feſtivity at taverns, to perform the ſerious duties of their profeſſion, under the regulations of morality and philoſophy. Such a conduct in the eyes of every thinking man muſt appear, even on the firſt view, to be ridiculous and abſurd, and I doubt not will be thought more ſo by every one who ſhall have the peruſal of your intended treatiſe.

Some may imagine that the expence of the propoſed building (if ſuch as it really ought to be) will prove too great for the ability of the

ſociety.

ſociety. But I fancy many plans might be laid down that would render it no difficult undertaking to raiſe a ſum ſufficient for the purpoſe. One, I will beg leave to offer for the preſent, and ſhall be very happy in finding a better propoſed and adopted.

There are at preſent, under the conſtitution of England, near 400 lodges, ſome of which conſiſt of 60, 70, 80, and even 100 members; not including thoſe Maſons, who from a variety of cauſes do not belong, as ſubſcribers, to any particular lodge; nevertheleſs retain their relation to, and reſpect for the ſociety, and who of themſelves, compoſe a very conſiderable number.

Perhaps it may be objected, there are many lodges that are not ſo numerous as what I have above ſet down; we will grant that, and take them on an avarage at 20 members, each, which will give us the amount of 8000 Maſons who attend lodges. Now I would propoſe a *voluntary ſubſcription*, and to promote ſo laudable a deſign, it would be abſurd to ſuppoſe any one would offer, *as a free gift*, leſs than five ſhillings, (many more) which will produce 2000 l. No inconſiderable ſum! Yet a trifle, compared to what might modeſtly be expected from that numerous catalogue of Princes, Nobles, and other wealthy perſons, who are of the ſociety in moſt parts of the globe, and connected with the Engliſh conſtitution, who would readily and liberally contribute,

as

as ſoon as a proper plan was eſtabliſhed, and application was made to them.

Nor let it be wrongly thought, beneath the dignity of our ſociety, or eſpecially the grand eſtabliſhment of it in this kingdom, to ſolicit ſuch an aid from the fraternity under the Engliſh conſtitution in other countries; all Maſons regularly made under the conſtitution of the Grand Maſter of England, owe allegiance to the eſtabliſhment here, and never fail of its protection and aſſiſtance. If therefore a ſcheme was ſettled on the above, or ſome other proper plan, there can be no doubt of effectually accompliſhing this deſirable end.

The neceſſity of ſuch a building is univerſally acknowledged through the ſociety; and a deſire of ſeeing one erected, as generally prevails. Some time ago, indeed, a ſubſcription was opened for the purpoſe of purchaſing furniture ſuitable for the grand lodge: But the ſtriking impropriety of procuring furniture, without firſt providing a place for its reception, put a ſtop at that time, to the progreſs of that affair; yet, notwithſtanding the proceeding was then judged premature, the ſtrongeſt aſſurances were given from every quarter, of their chearful concurrence, if a proper building was firſt erected, to which they would readily contribute.

How wounding muſt it be to the worthy Maſon, acting under the authority of our Grand Maſter,

ſter, to conſider the accounts we daily receive from travelling Brethren of the magnificence of the grand lodges abroad, whilſt that in England, which in many reſpects is intituled to a preference in dignity of all others, is deſtitute of a building, their own, of any ſort. But, not to reſt it on theſe general accounts, permit me here to ſend you a particular deſcription of the Banquetting Room belonging to the lodge of St. JOHN at Marſeilles; and from the magnificence and ſplendour of that room, to which they only retire for refreſhment, may be formed ſome idea of the ſuperior excellence of the lodge room.

I am convinced, Sir, the intention with which I give you this trouble, being an humble attempt to promote the honour and advantage of the ſociety, will be a ſufficient apology, with you, for deſiring you will lay the foregoing ſentiments before your numerous ſubſcribers, who I earneſtly hope will think ſeriouſly on the buſineſs alluded to, and, by a noble exertion of their generoſity, ſnatch the glorious opportunity, whilſt we have the Princes of the earth for our nurſing fathers, and a Nobleman of diſtinguiſhed virtue, our zealous MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER, that it may be recorded to the honour of our country and ourſelves; by the voluntary ſubſcription of the FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, in OUR day, this much wanted

ſtructure was erected, for the acquiſition of knowledge of the arts and ſciences, and the cultivation of moral and ſocial virtue.

I am, Sir, your affectionate Brother,

JAMES GALLOWAY, P. M.

A DESCRIPTION of the Banquetting Hall of the Lodge at Marſeilles, intituled, the Lodge of ST. JOHN.

At the bottom of the hall, under a gilded canopy, the valences whereof are blue, fringed with gold, is a painting, which repreſents the genius of Maſonry ſupporting the portrait of the King of France, upon a pedeſtal, under which there is this inſcription,

Dilectiſſimo rege Monumentum

Amoris

Latomi. Maſſilienſes.

A genius ſeated below the pedeſtal, preſents with one hand this inſcription, and with the other the arms of the lodge, with their motto,

Deo regi et Patriæ fidelitas.

Above this is a genius which crowns the King.

To the right of this painting is placed another, repreſenting the wiſdom of SOLOMON, with this inſcription above it,

Prudentia.

To

To the left is another, repreſenting the courage of St. JOHN the Baptiſt, in remonſtrating with HEROD upon his debaucheries. The inſcription above it is,

Fortitudo.

The right ſide of the hall is ornamented with paintings of equal grandeur.

The firſt repreſents JOSEPH acknowledging his brethren, and pardoning them for the ill uſage he had received from them, with this inſcription,

Venia.

The ſecond repreſents JOB upon the dunghill, his houſe deſtroyed, his fields laid waſte by ſtorm, his wife inſulting him, and himſelf calm, lifting his hands towards heaven, with this inſcription.

Patientia.

The third repreſents St. PAUL and St. BARNABAS, refuſing divine honours at Lyſtra, with this inſcription,

Humilitas.

The fourth JONATHAN, when he warned DAVID to keep from the city, in order to avoid the danger which threatned his days, with this inſcription,

Amicitia.

The fifth, SOLOMON ſurveying the works of the temple, and giving his orders for the execution

of the plan, which his father DAVID had left him of it, with this inſcription,

Pietas.

The ſixth, the charity of the SAMARITAN, with this inſcription,

Charitas.

The ſeventh, St. PETER and the other apoſtles paying tribute to CÆSAR, by means of the piece of money found miraculouſly in the belly of a fiſh, with this inſcription,

Fidelitas.

The left ſide of the hall contains three paintings.

The firſt, TOBIAS curing his father, with theſe words for the inſcription,

Filiale Debitum.

The ſecond, the father of the prodigal ſon, when he embraces him, and pardons his offences. with this inſcription,

Paternus Amor.

The third repreſents the ſacrifice of ABRAHAM, with this inſcription,

Obedientia.

On each ſide of the door are two paintings of equal grandeur.

One repreſents the apoſtles giving alms in common, the inſcription,

Eleemoſyna.

The

The other repreſents LOT, receiving the angels into his houſe, believing them to be ſtrangers; the inſcription is,

Hoſpitalitas.

The four corners of the hall are decorated with four *allegorical* pictures.

In one are repreſented two geniuſes holding a large medal, in which are painted three pillars of a gold colour, with this motto,

Hic poſuere Locum, Virtus, Sapientia, forma.

In another, two geniuſes equally ſupporting a large medal, on which are repreſented three hearts ſet on fire by the ſame flame, united by the bond of the order, with this motto,

Pectora jungit Amor, Pietas que ligavit Amantes.

The two others are in the ſame taſte, but ſupported by one genius only, being a ſmaller ſize. The medals repreſent,

The firſt, three branches, one of olive, another of laurel, and another of myrtle, with this motto,

Hic pacem mutuo damus accipimuſque viciſſim.

The other, a level in a hand coming from heaven, placed perpendicularly upon a heap of ſtones of unequal forms and ſizes, with this motto,

Equa lege ſortitur inſignes et imos.

All theſe paintings are upon a line; thoſe which are placed oppoſite the windows are intirely in front. Over the inner door of entrance is

this

this inſcription, in a painting which is diſplayed by a child,

S. T. O. T. A.

Varia hæc Virtutum Exempla Fraternæ Liberalitatis Monumenta D. V. & C. Latomi Maſſilienſis, Fratribus quæ aſſequenda prebent, anno Lucis

5765.

The letters S. T. O. T. A. ſignify, *Supremo Totius Orbis Terrarum Architecto.*

Each painting bears below it, the arms and blazon of the Brethren who cauſed them to be painted.

Every ſpace, from one column to another, forms an intercolumniation. Upon the middle of each pilaſter, being twenty-four in number, are raiſed corbals in form of antique *Guaines*, upon which are placed the buſts of great and virtuous men of antiquity.

The curtains to the gilded canopy are in the Italian taſte, and are four in number.

Three great branches of chryſtal light this hall at proper times, and ſerve as an additional ornament.

This hall will contain ſixty Brethren, without making uſe of the inſide of the horſe-ſhoe table.

There are, moreover, two grand deſert buffets, which take up a great ſpace in the length.

From

From the foregoing letter and deſcription, I ſhall take occaſion to conſider the temples of the antients, their ſituation, form, &c. the peruſal of which, I flatter myſelf, will afford both entertainment and inſtruction to the intelligent Maſon.

The firſt generations of men had neither temples nor ſtatues for their gods, but worſhipped towards heaven in the open air.

The Perſians, even in ages when temples were common in all other countries, not thinking the gods to be of human ſhape, as did the Greeks, had no temples; they thought it abſurd to confine the gods within walls, "whoſe houſe and temple was this whole world," to uſe the words of CICERO.

The Greeks, and moſt other nations, worſhipped their gods on the tops of high mountains. STRABO obſerves, that the Perſians had neither images nor altars, but only ſacrificed to the gods on ſome high place.

The nations which lived near Judea ſacrificed alſo on the tops of mountains. BALAK, King of Moab, carried BALAAM to the top of Bahal, and other mountains, to ſacrifice to the gods, and curſe Iſrael from thence. The ſame cuſtom is atteſted in almoſt innumerable places of the ſacred ſcriptures; I ſhall only add the following teſtimonies, whence the antiquity of this cuſtom will appear. ABRAHAM was commanded by God

God to offer ISAAC his ſon for a burnt-offering upon * one of the mountains in the land of Moriah; on which mountain DAVID afterwards erected an altar, and by ſacrifice and prayer appeaſed the peſtilence.

And on the ſame mountain (mount Moriah) SOLOMON, by GOD's appointment, erected a temple according to the model of the tabernacle, which MOSES, by divine inſtruction, built in the wilderneſs. In ſucceeding ages the temples were often built on the ſummits of mountains. Thus it is obſerved of the Trojan temples, in which HECTOR is ſuppoſed to have ſacrificed. And both at Athens and Rome the moſt ſacred temples ſtood in the moſt eminent parts of the city.

The temples of the antients were built and adorned with all poſſible ſplendour and magnificence; no pains, no charges were ſpared upon them; this they did, partly out of the great reſpect they had for the gods, to whom they thought nothing more acceptable, and, partly

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* There were in the ſame tract of ground *three* hills, *Sion*, *Moriah*, and mount *Calvary*. On *Sion* was the city and caſtle of DAVID; on *Moriah* was the temple; and, on mount *Calvary* CHRIST was crucified. But all theſe three were generally called by the name of *Sion*; whence it is, that though the temple was built on *Moriah*, ſcripture ſpeaks of it commonly as if it were upon mount *Sion*.

that

that they might create a reverence of the deities, in thoſe who came to pay their devotions there. (Vide D. Potter's *Antq. of Greece*, vol. I. and his comment upon *Lycophron*, *ad. vers.* 42.)

As to the form of theſe antient ſtructures, they were built after that manner which was thought moſt agreeable to the gods to whom they were deſigned to be dedicated: For as trees, birds, and other animals were eſteemed ſacred to particular deities, ſo almoſt every god had a form of building peculiar to himſelf, and which they imagined more acceptable to him than any other. For inſtance, the Dorick pillars were ſacred to Jupiter, Mars, and Hercules: The Ionick to Bacchus, Apollo, and Diana: The Corinthian to Veſta the virgin. It muſt be admitted that ſometimes all theſe were made uſe of in the ſame temple; but this was either in thoſe temples which were ſacred to more gods than one, or to ſome of thoſe gods who were thought to preſide over ſeveral things; for the antients believing that the world was governed by divine providence, aſcribed the management of every particular affair to this or that deity: Thus Mars was thought to preſide over war; Venus over love; ſo Mercury was the god of merchants, orators, and thieves; Minerva was the goddeſs of warriors, ſcholars, artificers, &c. Therefore, it is no wonder that in ſome of the temples dedicated to her, there were three rows

of pillars; the firſt of the Dorick, the ſecond of the Corinthian, the third of the Ionick order.

With reſpect to the ſituation of their temples, VITRUVIUS informs us, Wherever they ſtood, if the place would permit, it was contrived, that the windows being open, they might receive the rays of the riſing ſun (lib. VI. c. 5.) The frontiſpiece placed towards the *weſt*, and the altars and ſtatues towards the *eaſt*; ſo that they who came to worſhip might have their faces towards them, becauſe it was an antient cuſtom of the heathens to worſhip with their faces towards the *eaſt*. This is affirmed by CLEMENS of Alexandria (Strom. VIII.) and HYGINUS, the *freed-man of* AUGUSTUS CÆSAR, (*De agrorum limit. Conſ.* lib. I.) to have been the moſt antient ſituation of temples; and that the placing the front of temples towards the *eaſt* was only a device of latter ages. Nevertheleſs, the way of building temples towards the *eaſt*, ſo as the doors being opened ſhould receive the rays of the riſing ſun, was very antient (DION. THRAX.) and in latter ages almoſt univerſal; moſt of the temples were then ſo contrived, that the entrance and ſtatues ſhould look towards the *eaſt*, and they who paid their devotion towards the *weſt*, as we are expreſſly told by PORPHYRY, (*libro de Antro Nympharum.*) In the ſame manner the *eaſtern* nations commonly built their tem-

temples, as appears from the temples of the Syrian goddeſs in LUCIAN. The temple of Memphis, built by PSAMMENICUS, King of Egypt, in DIODORUS the Sycilian. That of Vulcan erected by another Egyptian King. (HERODOTUS, lib. II. &c.)

Hence it appears, that the reaſon why the heathens erected their temples *eaſt* and *weſt*, was to receive the rays of the riſing ſun, which planet many of thoſe nations were accuſtomed to worſhip.

And we find the tabernacle, erected in the wilderneſs, and the temple at Jeruſalem, as alſo moſt places of divine adoration in the preſent age, to be ſituated in the ſame manner, but not for the ſame reaſon: For we read that the Jews were forbid to worſhip with their faces towards the *eaſt*: Accordingly, the temple had no avenue to it but from the *eaſt*. So that in their approach to the temple, and during the time of their adoration therein, they had their faces towards the *weſt*, and their backs to the *riſing ſun*; which was done, according to the opinion of the beſt commentators, to prevent the people from worſhipping the *ſun and hoſt of heaven*, a ſpecies of idolatry they were very prone to. And as they were by this means to be prevented from falling into that mode of idolatry in their worſhip, conſequently the reaſon for ſituating the tabernacle, and (after that example) the temple could not be

the ſame which influenced the heathens in the ſituation of their temples. Therefore, we may reaſonably account for their ſituation, by ſuppoſing that when the tabernacle was erected, MOSES, purſuing the practice of the Egyptians, who always inculcated their religious documents by means of allegory and ſymbol, foreſeeing the difficulties which he would have to encounter before he ſhould arrive in the promiſed land, and having already experienced the inſtability of the Iſraelites, cauſed the tabernacle to be erected *eaſt* and *weſt*, to excite in them a firm reliance on the omnipotence of that GOD, who had then lately wrought ſo great a miracle in their favour, by cauſing a wind to blow firſt *eaſt* and then *weſt*, whereby they ſafely eſcaped from the Egyptians upon dry land, even through the midſt of a ſea, which nevertheleſs overwhelmed and totally deſtroyed their purſuers. And as they were liable to meet with many diſtreſſes in their ſojournment in the wilderneſs, ſo, as oft as they ſhould behold the ſituation of the tabernacle, their faith might be ſtrengthened, and by a firm reliance on ALMIGHTY GOD, they might be enabled to proceed with reſolution and chearfulneſs. And as the tabernacle was at that time to be a conſtant exhortation to them, from that great inſtance of Omnipotence, to confide in GOD under all their embarraſments, ſo, the temple, afterwards built by SOLOMON, in the ſame form and ſitu-

ſituation, was to be a laſting monument to their poſterity, of the mighty works the LORD had performed in conducting their fore-fathers out of their captivity into the promiſed land. And this alſo may be deemed a very ſufficient reaſon, why places for Chriſtian worſhip, after the pattern of the ſaid tabernacle and temple, have ever been, and ſtill are, generally erected in the ſame manner ; for as human creatures we, as well as our fore-fathers, ſtand in need to be continually reminded of our weakneſs, and a neceſſary conſtant dependence, on an omnipotent and all-gracious BEING.

THE
DUTIES
OF A
FREE-MASON,
IN
SEVERAL CHARGES,

DELIVERED

In regular LODGES, held under the Conſtitution of the GRAND MASTER of *ENGLAND*.

Honour all Men. Love the Brother-hood. Fear God. Honour the King.

1 PET. ii. v. 17.

A CHARGE, delivered to the Members of the Lodge of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, held at the Caſtle-inn, MARLBOROUGH, at a Meeting for the Diſtribution of CHARITY to twenty-four poor People, at which moſt of the Ladies in MARLBOROUGH were preſent, Sept. 11, *A. L.* 5769.

By *THOMAS DUNCKERLY*, Eſq; Right Worſhipful Provincial Grand Maſter over the Lodges in Hampſhire, and Right Worſhipful Maſter of that Lodge.

Bleſſed is he that conſidereth the POOR.

Pſalm xli. v. 1.

BRETHREN,

IT is with the greateſt ſatisfaction I meet you here in the cauſe of charity: Charity is the baſis of our order; it is for this purpoſe we have a Grand Lodge at London, another at Edinburgh, and a third at Dublin. Lodges are now held on every part of this globe, and charities

are collected and ſent to the reſpective grand lodge of each kingdom or ſtate: There the diſtreſt Brethren apply and find relief; nor is any exception made to difference of country or religion.

For, as in the ſight of God we are all equally his children, having the ſame common parent and preſerver, ſo we, in like manner, look on every Free-Maſon as our Brother; nor regard where he was born or educated, provided he is a good man, an honeſt man, which is "the nobleſt work of God."

A laudable cuſtom prevailed among our antient Brethren; after they had ſent their donations to the general charities, they conſidered the diſtreſſes of thoſe in particular that reſided in their reſpective neighbourhoods, and aſſiſted them with ſuch a ſum as could be conveniently ſpared from the lodge. In humble imitation of this maſonic principle, I recommend the preſent charity to your conſideration; to which you readily and unanimouſly conſented. The ſum is, indeed, but ſmall; yet, when it is conſidered that this lodge is in its infant ſtate, having been conſtituted little more than three months; I hope, as the widow's mite was acceptable, this act of ours will be conſidered, not with reſpect to the ſum, but the principles by which we are influenced.

I have told you in the lodge, and I repeat it now, that Brotherly-love, Relief and Truth, are

the grand prnciples of Maſonry, and as the principal part of the company are unacquainted with the original intention of this ſociety, it may be proper for their information, and your inſtruction, that I explain thoſe principles, by which it is our duty in particular to be actuated.

By Brotherly-love, we are to underſtand that generous principle of the ſoul, which reſpects the human ſpecies as one family, created by an all-wiſe Being, and placed on this globe for the mutual aſſiſtance of each other. It is this attractive principle, or power, that draws men together and unites them in bodies politic, families ſocieties, and the various orders and denominations among men. But as moſt of theſe are partial, contracted or confined to a particular country, religion, or opinion; our order, on the contrary, is calculated to unite mankind as one family: High and low, rich and poor, one with another; to adore the ſame God, and obſerve his law. All worthy members of this ſociety are free to viſit every lodge in the world; and though he knows not the language of the country, yet by a ſilent univerſal language of our own, he will gain admittance, and find that true friendſhip, which flows from the Brotherly-love I am now deſcribing.

At that peaceable and harmonious meeting he will hear no diſputes concerning religion or politics; no ſwearing; no obſcene, immoral, or

ludicrous diſcourſe; no other contention but *who can work beſt, who can agree beſt.*

To ſubdue our paſſions, and improve in uſeful ſcientific knowledge; to inſtruct the younger Brethren, and initiate the unenlightened, are principal duties in the lodge; which, when done, and the word of God is cloſed, we indulge with the ſong and chearful glaſs, ſtill obſerving the ſame decency and regularity, with ſtrict attention to the golden mean, believing, with the poet, that

God is paid when man receives,
T' enjoy is to obey.

Let me travel from eaſt to weſt, or between north and ſouth, when I meet a true Brother I ſhall find a friend, who will do all in his power to ſerve me, without having the leaſt view of ſelf-intereſt: And if I am poor and in diſtreſs, he will relieve me to the utmoſt of his power, intereſt and capacity. This is the ſecond grand principle: For relief will follow where there is Brotherly-love.

I have already mentioned our general charities as they are at preſent conducted; it remains now that I conſider particular donations given from private lodges, either to thoſe that are not Maſons, or to a Brother in diſtreſs. And firſt, with reſpect to a charity like this before us; perhaps it is better to be diſtributed in ſmall ſums, that more may receive the benefit, than to give

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it in larger ſums, which would confine it to few.

With regard to a Brother in diſtreſs, who ſhould happen to apply to this lodge, or any particular member for relief, it is neceſſary that I inform you in what manner you are to receive him. And here I cannot help regretting, that ſuch is the depravity of the human heart, there is no religion or ſociety free from bad profeſſors, or unworthy members, for as it is impoſſible for us to read the heart of man, the beſt regulated ſocieties may be impoſed on, by the inſinuations of the artful, and hypocriſy of the abandoned. It ſhould therefore by no means leſſen the dignity and excellency of the royal craft, becauſe it is our misfortune to have bad men among us, any more than the purity and holineſs of the Chriſtian religion ſhould be doubted becauſe too many of the wicked and profligate approach the holy altar.

Since, therefore, theſe things are ſo, be careful whenever a Brother applies for relief, to examine ſtrictly whether he is worthy of acceptance; enquire the cauſe of his misfortunes, and if you are ſatisfied they are not the reſult of vice or extravagance, relieve him with ſuch a ſum as the lodge ſhall think proper, and aſſiſt him with your intereſt and recommendation, that he may be employed according to his capacity, and not eat the bread of idleneſs. This will be acting

ing conſiſtent with Truth, which is the third grand principle of Maſonry.

Truth is a divine attribute, and the foundation of all maſonic virtues: To be *good men* and *true*, is part of the firſt great leſſon we are taught; and at the commencement of our freedom, we are exhorted to be fervent and zealous in the practice of *truth* and *goodneſs*. It is not ſufficient that we walk in the light, unleſs we do the truth. All hypocriſy and deceit muſt be baniſhed from us:—Sincerity and plain dealing compleat the harmony of the Brethren, within and without the lodge; and will render us acceptable in the ſight of that great Being, unto whom all hearts are open, all deſires known, and from whom no ſecrets are hid. There is a charm in truth that draws and attracts the mind continually towards it; the more we diſcover, the more we deſire, and the great reward is, wiſdom, virtue, and happineſs. This is an edifice founded upon a rock, which malice cannot ſhake, or time deſtroy. What a ſecret ſatisfaction do we enjoy, when in ſearching for truth, we find the firſt principles of uſeful ſcience, ſtill preſerved among us, as we received them by oral tradition from the earlieſt ages; and we alſo find this truth corroborated by the teſtimonies of the beſt and greateſt men the world has produced. But this is not all; the ſacred writings confirm what I aſſert; the ſublime part of our antient myſtery

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being there to be found; nor can any Chriſtian Brother be a good Maſon that does not make the word of God his firſt and principal ſtudy.

I ſincerely congratulate you on the happy eſtabliſhment of this lodge, and the proſpect you have of its utility and permanency, by the choice you have made of members capable to conduct it. Let wiſdom direct you to contrive for the beſt.—Strengthen the cauſe of Maſonry, by mutual friendſhip, which is the companion and ſupport of fraternal love, and which will never ſuffer any miſunderſtanding to inflame a Brother, or cauſe him to behave unbecoming a member of our peaceable and harmonious ſociety. Let us then reſolve to beautify and adorn our order, by diſcharging the duties of our reſpective ſtations, as good ſubjects, good parents, good huſbands, good maſters, and dutiful children; for by ſo doing, we ſhall put to ſilence the reproaches of fooliſh men. As you know theſe things, Brethren, happy are ye if ye do them; and thrice happy ſhall I eſteem it to be looked on as the founder of a ſociety in Marlborough whoſe grand principles are, Brotherly-love, Relief, and Truth.

Let us conſider theſe poor perſons as our brothers and ſiſters, and be thankful to Almighty God, that he has been pleaſed to make us his inſtruments of affording them this ſmall relief; moſt humbly ſupplicating the GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE, from whom all holy deſires, all good councels, and all juſt works do proceed,

proceed to bleſs our undertaking, and grant that we may continue to add ſome little comfort to the poor of this town.

Next to the Deity, whom can I ſo properly addreſs myſelf to, as the moſt beautiful part of the creation?

You have heard, Ladies, our grand principles explained, with the inſtructions given to the Brethren, and I doubt not but at other times you have heard many diſreſpectful things ſaid of this ſociety. Envy, malice and all uncharitableneſs will never be at a loſs to decry, find fault, and raiſe objections to what they do not know. How great then are the obligations you lay on this lodge! With what ſuperior eſteem, reſpect, and regard, are we to look on every Lady preſent that has done us the honour of her company this evening. To have the ſanction of the fair is our higheſt ambition, as our greateſt care will be to preſerve it. The virtues of humanity are peculiar to your ſex; and we flatter ourſelves, the moſt ſplendid ball could not afford your greater pleaſure, than to ſee the human heart made happy, and the poor and diſtreſt obtain preſent relief.

A CHARGE, delivered in St. George's Lodge at TAUNTON, in the County of SOMERSET, on the Feaſt of St. JOHN the Baptiſt, *A. L.* 5765, *A. D.* 1765.

By the Right Worſhipful Brother *JOHN WHITMASH*, on his reſigning the Chair.

WORTHY BRETHREN,

PROVIDENCE having placed me in ſuch a ſphere in life, as to afford me but little time for ſpeculation, I cannot pretend to have made mankind my particular ſtudy; yet, this I have obſerved, that curioſity is one of the moſt prevailing paſſions in the human breaſt. The mind of man is kept in a perpetual thirſt after knowledge, nor can he bear to be ignorant of what he thinks others know. Any thing ſecret or new immediately excites an uneaſy ſenſation, and becomes the proper fuel of curioſity, which will be found ſtronger or weaker in pro-

portion to the time and opportunities that individuals have for indulging it. It is obſervable further, that when this paſſion is excited, and not inſtantly gratified, inſtead of waiting for better intelligence, and uſing the proper means of removing the darkneſs that invelopes the object of it, we precipitately form ideas which are generally in the extremes. If the object promotes pleaſure or advantage, we then load it with commendations; if it appears in the oppoſite view, or if we are ignorant of it, we then abſurdly, as well as diſingenuouſly, condemn, and pretend, at leaſt, to deſpiſe it. This, my Brethren, has been the fate of the moſt valuable inſtitution in the world, Chriſtianity excepted, I mean Freemaſonry.—Thoſe who are acquainted with the nature and deſign of it, cannot, if they have good hearts, but admire and eſpouſe it; and if thoſe who are in the dark, or whoſe minds are diſpoſed to evil, ſhould ſlight or ſpeak diſreſpectfully of it, it certainly is no diſgrace. When order ſhall produce confuſion, when harmony ſhall give riſe to diſcord, and proportion ſhall be the ſource of irregularity, then, and not till then, will Freemaſonry be unworthy the patronage of the great, the wiſe, and good.

To love as Brethren, to be ready to communicate, to ſpeak truth one to another, are the dictates of reaſon and revelation; and you know that they are likewiſe the foundation, the conſtituent parts of Freemaſonry.

None,

None therefore, who believe the divine original of the ſacred volume, and are influenced by a ſpirit of humanity, friendſhip, and benevolence, can with the leaſt propriety objeƈt to our antient and venerable inſtitution.

For my own part, ever ſince I have had the honour to be enrolled in the liſt of Maſons, as I knew it was my duty, ſo I have made it my buſineſs, to become acquainted with the principles on which our glorious ſuperſtruƈture is founded. And like the miner, the farther I have advanced the richer has been my diſcovery; and the treaſure conſtantly opening to my view, has proved a full and ſatisfaƈtory reward of all my labours.

Conſcious that the ſame pleaſure would attend others, in the ſame purſuits, I ſincerely wiſhed for the eſtabliſhment of a lodge in this town; but as wiſhes without endeavours, are not the means of accompliſhment, I became, therefore, aƈtively concerned for the completion of ſo valuable a deſign. And you, and only you, who are Maſons in heart, can form the leaſt idea of the joy I felt, when upon enquiry, I found that this neighbourhood was not deſtitute of faithful Brethren; Brethren! fired with an equal ardour for the proſperity of Maſonry, and who with equal alacrity and pleaſure, embarked in the noble deſign, and, like true craftſmen, laboured in this long wiſhed-for fabrick: The ſtrength of whoſe baſis, the beauty of whoſe ſymmetry, the

order of whoſe parts, have rendered it the admiration of ſome, the model of others, and the delight of ourſelves.

You will therefore give me leave moſt ſincerely to congratulate the lodge, on the ſucceſs that has attended our united labours for the honour of the craft in this town, as likewiſe on the return of this feſtival, the general day of inſtalment of new officers. May we all live to celebrate repeatedly this anniverſary with increaſing felicity and honour; and may the true maſonic ſpirit of generoſity, kindneſs, and Brotherly-love, be our laſting cement.

By the rules of this lodge I am now to reſign the chair. But I cannot do this with entire ſatisfaction, until I have teſtified the grateful ſenſe I feel of the honour I received in being advanced to it.

Your generous and unanimous choice of me for your firſt Maſter, demands my thankful acknowledgements, though at the ſame time I ſincerely wiſh, that my abilities had been more adequate to the charge, which your kind partiality elected me to. But this has always been, and ſtill is my greateſt conſolation, that however deficient I may have been in the diſcharge of my duty, no one can boaſt a heart more devoted to the good of the inſtitution in general, and the reputation of this lodge in particular.

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Though I am apprehenſive I have already treſpaſſed on your patience, yet if I might be indulged, I would humbly lay before you a few reflections, adapted to the buſineſs of the day, which being the effuſions of a heart truly maſonic, will, it is hoped, be received with candour by you.

Every aſſociation of men, as well as this of Free-Maſons, muſt, for the ſake of order and harmony, be regulated by certain laws, and for that purpoſe proper officers muſt be appointed, and empowered to carry thoſe laws into execution, to preſerve a degree of uniformity, at leaſt to reſtrain any irregularity that might render ſuch aſſociations inconſiſtent. For we may as reaſonably ſuppoſe an army may be duly diſciplined, well provided, and properly conducted, without generals or other officers, as that a ſociety can be ſupported without governors, and their ſubalterns, or (which is the ſame) without ſome form of government to anſwer the end of the inſtitution. And as ſuch an arrangement muſt be revered, it becomes a neceſſary pre-requiſite that a temper ſhould be diſcovered in the ſeveral members adapted to the reſpective ſtations they are to fill.

This thought will ſuggeſt to you, that thoſe who are qualified to preſide as officers in a lodge will not be elated with that honour, but, loſing ſight of it, will have only in view, the ſervice their

their office demands. Their reproofs will be dictated by friendſhip, ſoftened by candour, and enforced with mildneſs and affection; in the whole of their deportment they will preſerve a degree of dignity tempered with affability and eaſe. This conduct, while it endears them to others, will not fail to raiſe their own reputation, and as envy ſhould not be ſo much as once named among Free Maſons, it will effectually prevent the growth of it, ſhould it unfortunately ever appear.

Such is the nature of our conſtitution, that as ſome muſt of neceſſity, rule and teach, ſo others muſt of courſe learn to obey; humility therefore in both becomes an eſſential duty, for pride and ambition, like a worm at the root of the tree, will prey on the vitals of our peace, harmony, and Brotherly-love.

Had not this excellent temper prevailed, when the foundation of SOLOMON's temple was firſt laid, it is eaſy to ſee, that glorious edifice would never have roſe to a height of ſplendour, which aſtoniſhed the world.

Had all employed in this work been Maſters, or ſuperintendants, who muſt have prepared the timber in the foreſt, or hewn the ſtone in the quarry? Yet though they were numbered and claſſed under different denominations, as princes, rulers, provoſts, comforters of the people, ſtone-

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quarers, ſculptors, &c. ſuch was their unanimity, that they ſeemed actuated by one ſpirit, influenced by one principle.

Merit alone then intituled to preferment; an indiſputable inſtance of which we have in the Deputy Grand Maſter of that great undertaking, who without either wealth or power, without any other diſtinction, than that of being the widow's ſon, was appointed by the Grand Maſter and approved by the people for this ſingle reaſon, becauſe he was a ſkilful artificer.

Let theſe conſiderations, my worthy Brethren, animate us in the purſuits of ſo noble a ſcience, that we may all be qualified to fill, in rotation, the moſt diſtinguiſhed places in the lodge, and keep the honours of the craft (which are the juſt rewards of our labour) in a regular circulation.

And as none are leſs qualified to govern, than thoſe, who have not learnt to obey, permit me in the warmeſt manner to recommend to you all a conſtant attendance in this place, a due obedience to the laws of our inſtitution, and a reſpectful ſubmiſſion to the directions of your officers, that you may prove to mankind the propriety of your election, and ſecure the eſtabliſhment of this ſociety to lateſt poſterity.

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An ADDRESS to the Lodge of *Perfect Friendſhip*, held at the Shakeſpear and Grey-Hound Inn and Tavern at Bath, on the Feſtival of St. John the Evangeliſt, *A. L.* 5768, *A. D.* 1768.

By Brother *J. S. GAUDRY*,

The Right Worſhipful Brother WILLIAM BROWNE, Maſter, in the Chair.

WORTHY BRETHREN,

THIS lodge is ſo juſtly renowned for its excellent plan and proceedings, that exhortations to a more punctual diſcharge of your reſpective duties, would appear both unneceſſary and vain. Still, permit me, without taking offence, to make a few trite obſervations on the nature of our inſtitution, for the benefit of ſuch newly admitted Brethren, as may at this time be preſent.

Would every Brother conſider the advantages he derives, as a man, by being a Free-Maſon, he would readily confeſs, that the glorious precepts inculcated in all regular lodges, are calculated in the

moſt eſpecial manner to faſhion the mind to goodneſs. In them it is ſtrongly recommended to us, to cultivate our ſeveral duties to God, our neighbour, and ourſelves. To have faith in God, hope in ſalvation, and charity for all mankind; and yet it muſt be confeſſed there are ſome, who have been initiated Maſons, and who, to their eternal ſhame, not only diſregard our excellent documents, but to all appearance, are little inclined to regulate their conduct by them, any longer than they are conſtrained to do it in a lodge; when, alas! the qualifications of a good Maſon would decorate the crown of the greateſt monarch.

As the rules of this fraternity have a direct tendency to promote moral and ſocial virtue, let us carefully baniſh from our breaſts every inclination, and avoid every practice, that might obſtruct this noble intention, ever being diſpoſed to humane and friendly offices, and particularly to relieve the diſtreſſes of indigent Brethren. The royal Pſalmiſt ſays, in raptures, The bleſſing of him that was ready to periſh came upon me, and I cauſed the widow's heart to ſing for joy. May we therefore rejoice in every opportunity of ſerving and obliging each other, for in ſuch exerciſe we anſwer one principal end of our inſtitution.

It is, and ſhould be, the glory of every member of this lodge, that our well regulated conduct has engaged us the eſteem of every Brother who has done us the honour of a viſit. Surely then we

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ought never to be wanting in a chearful performance of thoſe duties which are ſo conducive to the eſtabliſhing that good name, which we have endeavoured to merit.

For this laudable purpoſe let me obſerve, that a due attendance at the lodge becomes abſolutely requiſite: For, by frequently aſſembling together we ſhall harmonize in ſentiments, and grow in affection; and thus become ſufficiently guarded againſt the diſagreeable effects naturally reſulting from a roughneſs of behaviour, a contemptuous carriage, a cenſorious diſpoſition, or a contradicting temper, and unity, peace and pleaſure, will preſide. Theſe will be the happy effects of a due attendance on the lodge, and how far that is the duty as well as the intereſt of every member, regularly admitted, his own heart can ſufficently tell him; his engagements on his initiation were not ſo inſignificant as to be readily forgot, and when duly conſidered, will, I hope, appear too important to be trifled with, for, the Great Architect of the Univerſe is our Supreme Grand Maſter, and He is—a ſearcher of hearts.

In the next place permit me, worthy Brethren, to remind you of that veneration and obedience, which is due to the particular officers in the lodge in their reſpective ſtations. You well know that the internal, and not the external qualifications of a man, are what Maſonry regards, when he is admitted a member. Let us then be careful to juſtify ourſelves by a behaviour; to

ſuperiors, ſubmiſſive; to equals, courteous and affable; to inferiors, kind and condeſcending.

MASONRY is the daughter of Heaven! The patroneſs of the liberal arts and ſciences, which poliſh and adorn human nature: Thankful ought they to be who have it in their power to embrace her, and happy are thoſe who do.—SHE teaches the way to content, with fervency and zeal unfeigned, as ſure of being unchangeable as of ending in felicity.

Inveſted as we are with that antient and noble badge, which yields preference to no honour or order in the univerſe, let us determine to abhor every act that may leſſen the dignity of our profeſſion, which to this hour is the glory of the greateſt men on the face of the globe. Let us conform our whole lives to that great light, the Law of God, and let our actions convince the world, that Truth, Brotherly-love, and a deſire to afford Relief to the diſtreſſed, are the grand principles whereon we proceed. So that this life having paſſed in the diſcharge of our duties, as men and Free-Maſons, we may at length be received into the preſence of our SUPREME GRAND MASTER, and rejoice in hearing him ſay, Well done, ye good and faithful ſervants, enter ye into the joy of your LORD.

A ſhort CHARGE, delivered to Brother WILLIAM WINSTON, on his being inveſted and inſtalled Right Worſhipful Maſter of the *Palladian* Lodge of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, in the City of HEREFORD, on the Feſtival of St. JOHN the Evangeliſt, *A. L.* 5767. *A. D.* 1767.

By BR. *WELLINS CALCOTT*, P. M.

Right Worſhipful SIR,

BY the unanimous voice of the members of this lodge, you are elected to the Maſterſhip thereof for the enſuing half-year; and I have the happineſs of being deputed to inveſt you with this enſign of your office: Be it ever in your thoughts, that the antients particularly held this ſymbol to be a juſt, a ſtriking emblem of the Divinity. They ſaid, the gods, who are the authors of every thing eſtabliſhed in wiſdom, ſtrength, and beauty, were properly repreſented

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by this figure *. May you, worthy Brother, not only conſider it as a mark of honour in this aſſembly, but alſo, let it ever remind you of your duty both to God and man. And as you profeſs the ſacred volume to be your ſpiritual treſſel board, may you make it your particular care to ſquare your life and converſation according to the rules and deſigns laid down therein.

You have been of too long ſtanding, and are too good a member of our community, to require now any information in the duty of your office. What you have ſeen praiſe-worthy in others, we doubt not you will imitate; and what you have ſeen defective, you will in yourſelf amend.

We have therefore the greateſt reaſon to expect you will be conſtant and regular in your attendance on the lodge, faithful and diligent in the diſcharge of your duty: And that you will make the honour of the Supreme Architect of the univerſe, and the good of the craft, chief objects of your regard.

We likewiſe truſt you will pay a punctual attention to the laws and regulations of this ſociety, as more particularly becoming your preſent ſtation; and that you will at the ſame time require a due obedience to them, from every other member, well knowing that without this the beſt of laws become uſeleſs.

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* Vide Proclus in EUCLID, Lib. XI. Def. 2 and 34.

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For a pattern of imitation, conſider the great luminary of nature, which, riſing in the *eaſt*, regularly diffuſes light and luſtre to all within its circle. In like manner it is your province, with due decorum, to ſpread and communicate light and inſtruction to the Brethren in the lodge.

From the knowledge we already have of your zeal and abilities, we reſt aſſured you will diſcharge the duties of this important ſtation in ſuch a manner, as will greatly redound to the honour of yourſelf, as well as of thoſe members over whom you are elected to preſide.

An ADDRESS to the ſame LODGE,

By Brother *W. CALCOTT*,

Immediately after the Inveſtiture and Inſtalment of the reſt of the Officers.

WORTHY BRETHREN,

I Flatter myſelf there is no Maſon of my acquaintance inſenſible of the ſincere regard I ever had, and hope ever to retain, for our venerable inſtitution; certain I am, if this eſtabliſhment ſhould ever be held in little eſteem by the members, it muſt be owing to the want of a due ſenſe of the excellence of its principles, and the ſalutary laws and ſocial duties on which it is founded.

But ſometimes mere curioſity, views of ſelf-intereſt, or a groundleſs preſumption, that the principal buſineſs of a lodge is mirth and entertainment, hath induced men of looſe principles and diſcordant tempers to procure admiſſion into

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our community, this, together with an unpardonable inattention of thoſe who propoſed them; to their lives and converſations have conſtantly occaſioned great diſcredit and uneaſineſs to the craft, ſuch perſons being no ways qualified for a ſociety founded upon wiſdom, and cemented by morality and Chriſtian-love.

Therefore let it be your peculiar care to pay ſtrict attention to the merit and character of thoſe, who, from among the circle of your acquaintance, may be deſirous of becoming members of our ſociety, leſt through your inadvertency, the unworthy part of mankind ſhould find means to introduce themſelves among you, whereby you will diſcourage the reputable and worthy.

Self-love is a reigning principle in all men; and there is not a more effectual method of ingratiating ourſelves with each other, than by mutual complaiſance and reſpect; by agreement with each other in judgment and practice. This makes ſociety pleaſing, and friendſhip durable; which can never be the caſe when mens principles and diſpoſitions, are oppoſite, and not adapted for unity. We muſt be moved by the ſame paſſions, governed by the ſame inclinations, and moulded by the ſame morals, before we can pleaſe or be pleaſed in ſociety. No community or place can make a man happy, who is not furniſhed with a temper of mind to reliſh felicity. The wiſe and royal Grand Maſter, SOLOMON, tells

us, and experience confirms it, that, " the light is ſweet, and a pleaſant thing it is to behold the ſun." Yet for this pleaſure we are wholly indebted to that aſtoniſhing piece of heavenly workmanſhip, the eye, and the ſeveral organs of ſight. Let the eye be diſtempered, and all objects, which though they remain the ſame in themſelves, to us loſe their beauty and luſtre, let the eye be totally deſtroyed, then the ſenſe which depends upon it, is loſt alſo, and the whole body is full of darkneſs. So it is with that Maſon who has not a frame and temper of mind adapted to our inſtitution, without which, the blended allurements of pleaſure and inſtruction, to be found in a lodge, muſt become taſteleſs, and of none effect. Likewiſe let his conduct and circumſtances in life be ſuch, as may not have the leaſt tendency to diminiſh the credit of the ſociety: And be ye ever diſpoſed to honour good men for their virtues, and wiſe men for their knowledge: Good men for propagating virtue and religion all over the world, and wiſe men for encouraging arts and ſciences, and diffuſing them from eaſt to weſt, and between north and ſouth, rejecting all who are not of good repute, ſound morals, and competent underſtandings. Hence you will derive honour and happineſs to yourſelves, and drink deeply of thoſe ſtreams of felicity, which the unenlightened never can be indulged with a taſte of.

For

For by theſe means exceſs and irregularity muſt be ſtrangers within your walls. On ſobriety your pleaſure depends, on regularity your reputation, and not your reputation only, but the reputation of the whole body.

Theſe general cautions, if duly attended to, will continually evince your wiſdom by their effects; for I can with confidence aver, from experience, that nothing more contributes to the diſſolutions of a lodge, than too great a number of members * indiſcriminately made; want of regulation in their expences, and keeping unſeaſonable hours.

To guard againſt this fatal conſequence we ſhall do well to cultivate the following virtues, viz. prudence, temperance, and frugality. Virtues which are the beſt and propereſt ſupports of every community.

Prudence is the queen and guide of all other virtues, the ornament of our actions, the ſquare and rule of our affairs. It is the knowledge and choice of thoſe things we muſt either approve

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* It would be as abſurd to imagine, that happineſs is found in a numerous lodge, where the members are indiſcriminately admitted, as to think that true greatneſs conſiſts in ſize and dimenſions; for as Mr. Pope obſerves, "Let an edifice be ever ſo vaſt, unleſs the parts relate to each other in harmony, the monſtrous whole will be but a cluſter of littleneſſes unnaturally crowded together.

or reject ; and implies to conſult and deliberate well, to judge and reſolve well, to conduct and execute well.

Temperance conſiſts in the government of our appetites and affections, ſo as to uſe the good things of this life as not to abuſe them, either by a ſordid and ungrateful parſimony on the one hand, or a profuſe and prodigal indulgence to exceſs, on the other. This virtue has many powerful arguments in its favour; for, as we value our health, wealth, reputation, family, and friends, our character, as men, as Chriſtians, as members of ſociety in general, and as Free-maſons in particular, all conſpire to call on us for the exerciſe of this virtue; in ſhort, it comprehends a ſtrict obſervance of the apoſtles exhortation; "Be ye temperate in all things;" not only avoiding what is in itſelf improper, but alſo, whatever has the leaſt or moſt remote appearance of impropriety, that the tongue of the ſlanderer may be ſtruck dumb, and malevolence diſarmed of its ſting.

Frugality, the natural aſſociate of prudence and temperance, is what the meaneſt ſtation neceſſarily calls for, the moſt exalted cannot diſpenſe with. It is abſolutely requiſite in all ſtations: It is highly neceſſary to the ſupporting every deſirable character, to the eſtabliſhment of every ſociety, to the intereſt of every individual in the community. It is a moral, it is a Chriſtian

Chriſtian virtue. It implies the ſtrict obſervation of decorum in the ſeaſons of relaxation, and of every enjoyment, and is that temper of mind which is diſpoſed to employ every acquiſition only to the glory of the giver, our own happineſs, and that of our fellow-creatures.

If we fail not in the exerciſe of theſe virtues (which are eſſential ſupports of every lodge of Free and Accepted Maſons) they will effectually ſecure us from thoſe unconſtitutional practices, which have proved ſo fatal to this ſociety. For prudence will diſcover the abſurdity and folly of expecting true harmony, without due attention to the choice of our members. Temperance will check every appearance of exceſs, and fix rational limitations to our hours of enjoyment. And frugality will proſcribe extravagance, and keep our expences within proper bounds.

The Lacedemonians had a law among them, that every one ſhould ſerve the gods with as little expence as he could, herein differing from all other Grecians; and LYCURGUS being aſked for what reaſon he made this inſtitution, ſo diſagreeable to the ſentiments of all other men? anſwered, Leſt at any time the ſervice of the gods ſhould be intermitted; for he feared, if religion ſhould be as expenſive there as in other parts of Greece, it might ſometime or other happen that the divine worſhip, out of the covetouſneſs of ſome, and the poverty of others,

would

would be neglected. This obſervation will hold equally good with reſpect to Maſons, and will, I hope, by them be properly applied.

I would not be underſtood here to mean, that becauſe theſe three moral virtues are particularly pointed out, as eſſentially neceſſary to the good diſcipline and ſupport of a lodge, nothing more is required, for ſocial muſt be united with moral excellencies; was a man to be merely prudent, temperate and frugal, and yet be unaccuſtomed to the duties of humanity, ſincerity, generoſity, &c. he would be at moſt but a uſeleſs, if not a worthleſs member of ſociety, and a much worſe Maſon.

In the next place permit me to remind you, that a due attendance on the lodge for your own improvement, and the reputation of Maſonry in general, is abſolutely neceſſary; for your own improvement, becauſe the advantages naturally reſulting from the practice of principles therein taught, are the higheſt ornament of human nature; and for the credit of the community, becauſe it is your indiſpenſible duty to ſupport ſuch a character in life as is there enjoined. The prevalency of good example is great, and no language is ſo expreſſive as a conſiſtent life and converſation; theſe once forfeited in the maſonic character, will diminiſh a man, not only in the, eſteem of perſons of ſenſe, learning, and probity,

but

but even men of inferior qualities will ſeldom fail of making a proper diſtinction.

You are well acquainted, that the envious and cenſorious are ever diſpoſed to form their judgments of mankind according to their conduct in public life, ſo when the members of our ſociety deſert their body, or diſcover any inconſiſtency in their practice with their profeſſion, they contribute to bring an odium on a profeſſion, which it is the duty of every member highly to honour. Indeed inſtances of the conduct here decried, I own are very rare, and I might ſay, as often as they do happen tend ſtill more to diſcover the malignity of our adverſaries than to reflect on ourſelves. For with what ill-nature are ſuch ſuggeſtions framed? How weak muſt it appear in the eye of diſcernment, to condemn a whole ſociety for the irregularity of a few individuals*.

But to return to my argument; one great cauſe of abſenting ourſelves from the lodge, I apprehend to be this.—The want of that grand fundamental principle, Brotherly-love! Did we properly cultivate this Chriſtian virtue, we ſhould

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* Though there ſhould be Free-Maſons who cooly and without agitation of mind, ſeem to have diveſted themſelves of all affection and eſteem for the craft; we only ſee thereby the effects of an exquiſite and inveterate depravation, for the principle is almoſt always preſerved, though its effects ſeem to be totally loſt.

think

think ourſelves happieſt when aſſembled together. On unity in affection, unity in government ſubſiſts; for whatever draws men into ſocieties, it is that only can cement them.

Let us recollect that love is the new and greateſt commandment; all the others are ſummarily comprehended in this. It is the fulfilling of the law, and a neceſſary qualification for the celeſtial lodge, where the Supreme Architect of the univerſe preſides, who is love. Faith, hope, and charity are three principal graces, by which we muſt be guided thither, of which charity, or univerſal love, is the chief, when faith ſhall be ſwallowed up in viſion, and hope in enjoyment, then true charity or Brotherly-love, will ſhine with the brighteſt luſtre to all eternity.

" *Shall ſtand before the hoſt of heaven confeſt,*
" *For ever bleſſing, and for ever bleſt.*"

PRIOR *on* xiiith *ch.* 1 Cor.

On the other hand, envy, pride, cenſoriouſneſs, malice, revenge, and diſcord, are the productions of a diabolical diſpoſition. Theſe are epidemical diſorders of the mind, and if not ſeaſonably corrected and ſuppreſſed will prove very pernicious to particular communities, and more eſpecially to ſuch an eſtabliſhment as ours.

Now there is nothing ſo diametrically oppoſite to them, and ſo powerful an antidote againſt them as charity, or true Brotherly-love; for inſtance,

are

are we tempted to envy, charity guards the mind againſt it, charity envieth not. Are we tempted by pride, charity vaunteth not itſelf, is not puffed up. Where this virtue is predominant, humility is both its companion and its delight; for, the charitable man puts on bowels of mercy, kindneſs, lowlineſs of mind. It is a certain remedy likewiſe againſt all cenſorioufneſs: Charity thinketh no evil, but believeth all things, hopeth all things, will ever incline us to believe and hope the beſt, eſpecially of a Brother.

THEREFORE let a conſtant exerciſe of this Chriſtian virtue, ſo eſſential to our preſent and future happineſs, prove our great eſteem for it, and, by its influence upon our lives and actions, teſtify to the world the cultivation of it amongſt us, that they who think or ſpeak evil of us, may be thereby confounded and put to open ſhame. And as it was a proverbial expreſſion among the enemies of Chriſtianity in its infancy, "See how theſe Chriſtians love one another," may the ſame with equal propriety, be ſaid of Free-Maſons. This will convince the ſcoffer and ſlanderer, that we are lovers of Him, who ſaid, If ye love me keep my commandments; and, this is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you. This will prove to our enemies, that a good Maſon is a good man, and a good Chriſtian, and afford ourſelves the greateſt comfort here by giving us a well-grounded hope of admittance into

a lodge

a lodge of everlasting felicity hereafter. Thus shall our institution be enabled to repel the destructive power of time, the strongest arm of calumny, and the severest strokes of reproach, till that great and important day when the commissioned arch-angel shall pronounce this awful sentence,

"Earth, *be dissolv'd, with all the worlds on high,*
"*And* time *be lost in vast eternity.*"

Ogilvie.

A CHARGE, delivered to the Members of the UNION LODGE, regularly conſtituted and held at the Union Punch Houſe, Princes-ſtreet, Briſtol, *A. L.* 5767,

By Brother *ALEXANDER SHEDDEN*,
Right Worſhipful Maſter.

MY WORTHY BRETHREN,

THIS being our ſecond quarterly meeting, ſince I had the honour to ſit in this chair, I embrace the opportunity again to return you my ſincere thanks for that honour, and to aſſure you I am determined, to the utmoſt of my power, to execute the great truſt which you continue to repoſe in me, with freedom, fervency and zeal. That I may be enabled ſo to do, let us unanimouſly concur in cultivating peace, harmony, and perfect friendſhip, ſtriving who ſhall excel in Brotherly-love and benignity; then I doubt not, but with the aſſiſtance of my Brother officers, I may

be enabled to conduct the buſineſs of the lodge, and diſcharge my duty to your ſatisfaction.

To accompliſh theſe deſireable ends, let me, in the firſt place intreat your ſtrict attention to our by-laws, ever keeping in view the general regulations, conſtitutions, and orders of our antient and honourable ſociety. Let due regard be paid to your officers in their reſpective ſtations, whoſe duty it is to regulate the proceedings of the lodge, and to carry the laws into execution, and may the only contention amongſt us be, a laudable emulation in cultivating the royal art, and endeavouring to excel each other in whatever is good and great. The moral and ſocial duties of life we ſhould make a principal ſubject of contemplation, for thereby we ſhall be enabled to ſubdue our paſſions, and cultivate fraternal affection, the glory and cement of this inſtitution, laying aſide all malice, and all guile and hypocriſies, and envies, and all evil-ſpeakings; manifeſting our love one to another, for "Love is of "God; and he that loveth God, loveth his Bro-"ther alſo. And he that ſaith he is in the light, "and hateth his Brother, is in darkneſs until "now."

Suffer nothing to be heard within the ſacred walls of this lodge, but the heavenly ſounds of truth, peace and concord, with a chearful harmony of ſocial and innocent mirth; and, "be ye "like-minded, having the ſame love, being of "one accord and of one mind; let nothing be

"done

" done through ſtrife or vain-glory, but in low-
" lineſs of mind, let each eſteem other better
" than themſelves." Never give cauſe for it to be ſaid, that we who are ſolemnly connected by the ſtricteſt laws of amity, ſhould ever omit the practice of forbearance, and allow our paſſions to controul us, when one great end propoſed by our meeting here is, to ſubdue them. Let us not ſit down contented with the name only of a Maſon, but walk worthy of that glorious profeſſion, in conſtant conformity to its duties. To become Brethren worthy of our moſt antient and honourable inſtitution, we muſt devote ourſelves to the ſtudy and diſcharge of the following duties, which are more or leſs within the reach of every capacity, viz. a knowledge of the myſterious problems, hieroglyphicks, and ſymbolical cuſtoms and ceremonies of the royal art, together with the origin, nature, and deſign of the inſtitution, its ſigns, tokens, &c. whereby Maſons are univerſally known to, and can converſe with each other, though born and bred in different countries and languages.

A Free Maſon muſt likewiſe be a good man, one who duly fears, loves, and ſerves his heavenly Maſter, and in imitation of the operative maſon who erects a temporal building according to the rules and deſigns laid down for him, by the maſter maſon, on his treſſel-board, raiſes a ſpiritual building, according to the laws and injunctions

laid

laid down by the Supreme Architect of the univerſe in the book of life, which may juſtly be conſidered in this light, as a ſpiritual treſſel-board.

He muſt honour the King and be ſubordinate to his ſuperiors, and ever ready to promote the deſerving Brother in all his lawful employments and concerns. Theſe, my Brethren, are qualifications of a good Maſon, wherefore they merit our peculiar attention; and, as it is our duty we ſhould make it our pleaſure to practice them, by ſo doing we ſhall let our light ſhine before men, and prove ourſelves worthy members of that inſtitution, which enobles all who conform to its moſt glorious precepts.

Finally, let me adviſe you to be very circumſpect, and well guarded againſt the baſe attempts of pretenders, always ſetting a watch before your mouth. And with reſpect to any who may call themſelves Maſons, but (poſſeſſing refractory ſpirits) are at the ſame time enemies to all order, decency, and decorum, ſpeaking and acting as rebels to the conſtitution of Maſons in this kingdom, let me exhort you to have no connection with them, but according to the advice of St. PAUL, to the Theſſalonians, "withdraw yourſelves from every Brother that walketh diſorderly," leaving ſuch to the natural conſequence of their own bad conduct; being well aſſured, that the vain fabric, which they mean to erect, having no other ſupport than their own ignorance, debi-

lity,

lity, and deformity, will of itſelf ſoon tumble to the ground, with ſhame and ruin on the builders heads. On the other hand, let us live in ſtrict amity and fraternal love with all juſt and upright Brethren, that we may ſay, with the royal Pſalmiſt, " Behold how good, and how plea-
" ſant it is, for Brethen to dwell together in
" unity."

Let GOD's holy word be the guide of our faith; and juſtice, charity, love and mercy, our characteriſticks, then we may reaſonably hope to attain the celeſtial paſs-word, and gain admittance into the lodge of our Supreme Grand Maſter, where pleaſures flow for evermore.— This is the fervent prayer of him who glories in the name of a faithful Maſon, and has the honour to be Maſter of this Right Worſhipful lodge.

The

The following ADDRESS was delivered by the Rev. Mr. HENRY CHALMERS, P. M. in the Lodge of *Perfect Friendſhip*, conſtituted and held in the Town of Chelmsford, in the County of Eſſex, on the Feſtival of St. JOHN the Baptiſt, *A. L.* 5767. On which Occaſion a Sermon had alſo been preached in the Forenoon by the Rev. Mr. PANTING.

Right Worſhipful Maſter, and worthy Brethren,

A Deſire to entertain each other with ſocial, virtuous, and chearful ſentiments, is the duty as well as the happineſs of every member of our antient and honourable ſociety.

Animated by brotherly good-will (which I hope is deeply engraved on the heart of every Free-Maſon) permit me to congratulate you on the return of this feſtival, thus reſpectfully celebrated by a lodge wherein I have had the honour to preſide: A lodge, in its infancy, diſtinguiſhed for its regularity and choice of its members; but

but under the prudent conduct of our preſent * guardian, flouriſhing beyond expectation; and by his aſſiduity and care, honoured with the addition of many illuſtrious and worthy Brethren.

Happy am I likewiſe to ſee all the offices this day ſupported by Brethren, who I am perſuaded want neither inclination or abilities, to recommend and enforce whatever may be found neceſſary to maintain the univerſal reputation of the inſtitution, and particularly the felicity of this lodge.

Our Reverend Brother, in his ingenious diſcourſe, this morning, judiciouſly expatiated on thoſe glorious principles, on which our royal art is founded, and proved its baſis ſtill to be firm and permanent. Let it be our peculiar care, as it is our indiſpenſible duty, not to undermine it by any inattention, omiſſion, or irregularity.

Knowledge (which is attained by diligence) muſt precede practice, and till we know a duty, it is impoſſible for us to diſcharge it. The lodge is the propereſt ſchool wherein we can expect to arrive at any proficiency in our noble ſcience, and by a conſtant and regular attendance here, we may hope to become Maſters of the royal art;

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* John Reynolds, Eſq; coroner for the county of Eſſex.

whereas the neglect of this duty can produce nought but ignorance and error. Indeed! were these the only consequences of a wilful or indolent absence, the craft might not suffer much by such lukewarm Brethren; but I am sorry to say this is not all, the eye of the censurer is ever upon us, and the lips of the stammerer speak plainly against us, and when the members of our society desert the body, the unenlightened are ever ready to impeach the harmony and improvement which we profess and know to be the inseparable companions of every well regulated lodge, where VIRTUE finds a real pleasure, and *vice* a just abhorrence.

Let us therefore be ever vigilant in the discharge of our duty, and particularly assiduous in cultivating those grand essentials of our constitution, Brotherly-love, Beneficence, and Truth. Thus we shall be always happy in assembling together. Thus will our lodge shine with undiminished lustre, even as long as the radiant sun shall rise in the east to gild our days, and the pale moon appear to illuminate our nights. Thus supported by wisdom, strength, and beauty; adorned with peace, plenty, and harmony; cemented by secrecy, morality, and good-fellowship, what has it to fear? Let the tides of time and chance beat against its walls; the gusts of malice assault its towering height,

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its all in vain! Still ſhall the noble ſtructure firmly ſtand, and only be diſſolved when the pillars of the univerſe ſhall be ſhaken, and, "the great "globe itſelf, yea, all which it inherit, ſhall, like "the baſeleſs fabric of a viſion, leave not a wreck "behind."

The following ADDRESS was delivered in a Lodge of FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, immediately after the *Expulsion* of a Member who had been repeatedly, but in vain, admonished for the illiberal practice of backbiting and slandering his BRETHREN.

BRETHREN,

AS in ALL numerous bodies and societies of men, some unworthy will ever be found, it can be no wonder, that notwithstanding the excellent principles and valuable precepts, laid down and inculcated by our venerable institution, we have such amongst us: Men! who instead of being ornaments or useful members of our body, I am sorry to say, are a shame and disgrace to it.

These are sufficiently characterized by a natural propensity to backbite and slander their Brethren, vices! truly detestable in all men, and more peculiarly so in FREE-MASONS, who by the regulations of their institution, are specially exhorted and enjoined "to speak as well of a Brother

ther if abſent as preſent; to defend his honour and reputation wherever attacked, as far as truth and juſtice will permit; and where they cannot reaſonably vindicate him, at leaſt to refrain from contributing to condemn him."

But alas! regardleſs of their duty in general, and of theſe laudable injunctions in particular, we frequently find ſuch men aſſiduouſly employed in traducing the characters of their Brethren; and inſtead of rejoicing at their good fortune, pitying their misfortunes, and apologizing for their weakneſſes and errors, envying their proſperity, and (unaffected by their adverſity) with a ſecret, and malicious pleaſure, exploring and publiſhing their defects and failings; like trading veſſels they paſs from place to place, receiving and diſcharging whatever CALUMNY they can procure from others, or invent themſelves.

As we have juſt now had a mortifying inſtance of the neceſſary conſequence of ſuch baſe conduct, in the expulſion of one of our own members, permit me to deliver to you ſome ſentiments of the great Archbiſhop TILLOTSON * on the ſubject. He aſſigns various cauſes of this evil, and alſo furniſhes directions, which if adhered to, will greatly contribute to prevent and remedy it.

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* Vide his ſermon on EVIL-SPEAKING.

" If

" If we conſider the cauſes of this evil practice, we ſhall find one of the moſt common is ill-nature; and by a general miſtake, ill-nature paſſeth for wit, as cunning doth for wiſdom; though in truth, they are as different as vice and virtue.

" There is no greater evidence of the bad temper of mankind, than their proneneſs to evil-ſpeaking. For as our Saviour ſaith, Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth ſpeaketh, and therefore we commonly incline to the cenſorious and uncharitable ſide."

" The good ſpoken of others we eaſily forget, or ſeldom mention, but the evil lies uppermoſt in our memories, and is ready to be publiſhed upon all occaſions; nay, what is more ill-natured and unjuſt, tho' many times we do not believe it ourſelves, we tell it to others, and venture it to be believed according to the charity of thoſe to whom it is told."

" Another cauſe of the frequency of this vice is, That many are ſo bad themſelves. For to think and ſpeak ill of others is not only a bad thing, but a ſign of a bad man. When men are bad themſelves they are glad of any opportunity to cenſure others, and endeavour to bring things to a level; hoping it will be ſome juſtification of their own faults, if they can but make others appear equally guilty."

" A third cauſe of evil-ſpeaking is malice and revenge. When we are blinded by our paſſions

we

we do not conſider what is true, but what is miſchievous; we care not whether the evil we ſpeak be true or not; nay, many are ſo baſe as to invent and raiſe falſe reports, on purpoſe to blaſt the reputations of thoſe by whom they think themſelves injured. This is a diabolical temper; and therefore St. JAMES tells us, that the ſlanderer's tongue is ſet on fire of hell."

" A fourth cauſe of this vice is envy. Men look with an evil eye upon the good that is in others, and do what they can to diſcredit their commendable qualities; thinking their own character leſſened by them, they greedily entertain, and induſtriouſly publiſh, what may raiſe themſelves upon the ruins of other mens reputation."

" A fifth cauſe of evil-ſpeaking is impertinence and curioſity; an itch of talking of affairs which do not concern us. Some love to mingle themſelves in all buſineſs, and are loth to ſeem ignorant of ſuch important news as the faults and follies of men; therefore with great care they pick up ill ſtories to entertain the next company they meet, not perhaps out of malice, but for want of ſomething better to talk of."

" Laſtly, many do this out of wantonneſs, and for diverſion; ſo little do they conſider a man's reputation is too great and tender a concern to be jeſted with; and that a ſlanderous

tongue

tongue bites like a ſerpent, and cuts like a ſword. What can be ſo barbarous, next to ſporting with a man's life, as to play with his honour and good name, which to ſome is better than life?"

Such, and ſo bad, are the cauſes of this vice.

"If we conſider its pernicious effects we ſhall find, that to ſuch as are ſlandered it is a great injury, commonly a high provocation, but always matter of grief."

"It is certainly a great injury, and if the evil which we ſay of them be not true, it is an injury beyond reparation. It is an injury that deſcends to a man's children; becauſe the good or ill name of the father is derived down to them, and many times the beſt thing he has to leave them is an unblemiſhed virtue. And do we make no conſcience to rob his innocent children of the beſt part of this ſmall patrimony, and of all the kindneſs that would have been done them for their father's ſake, if his reputation had not been ſo undeſervedly ſtained? Is it no crime, by the breath of our mouth, at once to blaſt a man's reputation, and to ruin his children perhaps to all poſterity? Can we jeſt with ſo ſerious a matter? An injury ſo very hard to be repented of as it ought; becauſe, in ſuch a caſe, no repentance will be acceptable without reſtitution, if in our power."

"Even

" Even ſuppoſe the matter of the ſlander true, yet no man's reputation is conſiderably ſtained, though never ſo deſervedly, without great hurt to him; and it is odds but the charge, by paſſing through ſeveral hands, is aggravated beyond truth, every one being apt to add ſomething to it."

" Beſides the injury, it is commonly a high provocation; the conſequences of which may be dangerous and deſperate quarrels. One way or other the injured perſon will hear of it, and will take the firſt opportunity to revenge it."

" At beſt, it is always matter of grief to the perſon that is defamed, and Chriſtianity, which is the beſt natured inſtitution in the world, forbids us to do thoſe things whereby we may grieve one another."

A man's character is a tender thing, and a wound there ſinks deep into the ſpirit even of a wiſe and a good man; and the more innocent any man is in this reſpect, the more ſenſible he is of this uncharitable treatment; becauſe he never treats others ſo, nor is he conſcious to himſelf that he hath deſerved it.

" To ourſelves the conſequences of this vice are as bad or worſe. He that accuſtoms himſelf to ſpeak evil of others, gives a bad character to himſelf, even to thoſe whom he deſires to pleaſe, who, if they be wiſe, will conclude that he

ſpeaks of them to others, as he does of others to them."

" And this practice of evil-ſpeaking may be inconvenient many other ways. For who knows, in the chance of things, and the mutability of human affairs, whoſe kindneſs he may ſtand in need of before he dies? So, that did a man only conſult his own ſafety and quiet, he ought to refrain from evil-ſpeaking."

" How cheap a kindneſs is it to ſpeak well, at leaſt not to ſpeak ill of others. A good word is an eaſy obligation, but not to ſpeak ill requires only our ſilence. Some inſtances of charity are chargeable; but were a man never ſo covetous he might afford another his good word; at leaſt he might refrain from ſpeaking ill of him, eſpecially if it be conſidered, how dear many have paid for a ſlanderous and reproachful word."

" No quality ordinarily recommends one more to the favour of men, than to be free from this vice. Such a man's friendſhip every one deſires; and, next to piety and righteouſneſs, nothing is thought a greater commendation, than that he was never, or very rarely, heard to ſpeak ill of any."

" Let every man lay his hand upon his heart, and conſider how himſelf is apt to be affected with this uſage. Nothing ſure is more equal and reaſonable than that known rule, What thou

wouldſt

wouldſt have no man do to thee, that do thou to no man."

" The following directions, if duly obſerved, will greatly contribute to the prevention and cure of this great evil."

" Never ſay any evil of another, but what you certainly know."

" Whenever you poſitively accuſe a man of any crime, though it be in private and among friends, ſpeak as if you were upon your oath, becauſe GOD ſees and hears you. This, not only charity but juſtice demands of us. He that eaſily credits a falſe report is almoſt as culpable as the firſt inventor of it. Therefore never ſpeak evil of any upon common fame, which, for the moſt part is falſe, but almoſt always uncertain."

" Before you ſpeak evil of another, conſider whether he hath not obliged you by ſome real kindneſs, and then, it is a bad turn to ſpeak ill of him who hath done you good. Conſider alſo, whether you may not come hereafter to be acquainted with him, related to him, or in want of his favour whom you have thus injured? And whether it may not be in his power to revenge a ſpiteful and needleſs word, by a ſhrewd turn? So that if a man made no conſcience of hurting others, yet he ſhould in prudence have ſome conſideration of himſelf,"

" Let us accuſtom ourſelves to be truly ſorry for the faults of men, and then we ſhall take no pleaſure in publiſhing them. Common humanity requires this of us, conſidering the great infirmities of our nature, and that we alſo are liable to be tempted; conſidering likewiſe how ſevere a puniſhment every crime is to itſelf, how terribly it expoſeth a man to the wrath of God, both here and hereafter."

" Whenever we hear any man evil ſpoken of, if we have heard any good of him, let us ſay that. It is always more humane and more honourable to vindicate others than to accuſe them. Were it neceſſary that a man ſhould be evil ſpoken of, his good and bad qualities ſhould be repreſented together, otherwiſe he may be ſtrangely miſrepreſented, and an indifferent man may be made a monſter."

" They that will obſerve nothing in a wiſe man, but his overſights and follies; nothing in a good, but his failings and infirmities, may render both deſpicable. Should we heap together all the paſſionate ſpeeches, all the imprudent actions of the beſt man, and preſent them all at one view, concealing his virtues, he, in this diſguiſe, would look like a mad-man or fury; and yet, if his life were fairly repreſented in the manner it was led, he would appear to all the world to be an admirable and excellent perſon. But how numerous ſoever any man's ill-qualities are,

it

it is but juſt that he ſhould have due praiſe of his few real virtues."

" That you may not ſpeak ill, do not delight in hearing it of any. Give no countenance to buſy-bodies; if you cannot decently reprove them, becauſe of their quality, divert the diſcourſe ſome other way; or by ſeeming not to mind it, ſignify that you do not like it."

" Let every man mind his own duty and concern. Do but endeavour, in good earneſt, to mend yourſelf, and it will be work enough, and leave you little time to talk of others."

In the foregoing ſentiments, the BACKBITER and SLANDERER may ſee himſelf fully repreſented as in a true mirrour; and deteſtable as the ſpectacle naturally appears, much more ſo does it ſeem when *maſonically* examined. May all ſuch therefore contemplate the nature and conſequences of this abominable vice, and that they may ſtill become worthy men and Maſons, let them conſtantly pray, with the royal Pſalmiſt, (Pſal. cxli.) *Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, keep thou the door of my lips*; being aſſured of their encouragement, that, *He who backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach againſt his neighbour, ſhall abide in the tabernacle of the Lord, and ſhall dwell in his holy-hill.*

A ſhort CHARGE, generally given to new admitted BRETHREN.

YOU are now admitted by the unanimous conſent of our lodge, a fellow of our moſt antient and honourable ſociety; antient, as having ſubſiſted from time immemorial, and honourable, as tending in every particular to render a man ſo, that will be but conformable to its glorious precepts.—The greateſt monarchs in all ages, as well of Aſia and Africa as of Europe, have been encouragers of the royal art, and many of them have preſided as Grand Maſters over the Maſons in their reſpective dominions; not thinking it any diminution of their imperial dignities to level themſelves with their Brethren in Maſonry, and to act as they did. The world's great Architect is our Supreme Maſter, and the unerring rule he has given us, is that by which we work. Religious diſputes are never ſuffered in the lodge, for, as Free-Maſons, we only purſue the univerſal religion of nature: This is the cement which unites men of the moſt different prin-

principles in one ſacred band, and brings together thoſe who were the moſt diſtant from one another.

There are three general heads of duty, which Maſons ought always to inculcate, viz. to God, our neighbours, and ourſelves. To God, in never mentioning his name but with that reverential awe which becomes a creature to bear to his Creator; and to look upon him always as the *ſummum bonum* which we came into the world to enjoy: And according to that view to regulate all our purſuits. To our neighbours, in acting upon the ſquare, or doing as we would be done by. To ourſelves, in avoiding all intemperances and exceſſes, whereby we may be led into a behaviour unbecoming our laudable profeſſion.

In the ſtate, a Maſon is to act as a peaceable and dutiful ſubject, conforming chearfully to the government under which he lives; he is to pay a due deference to his ſuperiors, and from his inferiors he is rather to receive honour with ſome reluctance than to extort it; he is to be a man of benevolence and charity, not ſitting down contented while his fellow-creatures (but much more his Brethren) are in want, and it is in his power, without prejudicing himſelf or family, to relieve them. In the lodge he is to behave with all due decorum, leſt the beauty and harmony thereof ſhould be diſturbed and broke. He is to be obedient to the Maſter and preſiding of-

officers, and to apply himſelf cloſely to the buſineſs of Maſonry, that he may ſooner become a proficient therein; both for his own credit, and for that of the lodge. He is not to neglect his neceſſary avocations for the ſake of Maſonry, nor to involve himſelf in quarrels with thoſe who, through ignorance, may ſpeak evil of, or ridicule it. He is to be a lover of the arts and ſciences, and to take all opportunities of improving himſelf therein. If he recommends a friend to be made a Maſon, he muſt vouch him to be ſuch as he really believes will conform to the aforeſaid duties; leſt by his miſconduct at any time the lodge ſhould paſs under ſome evil imputations. Nothing can prove more ſhocking to all faithful Maſons, than to ſee any of their Brethren profane, or break through the ſacred rules of their order, and ſuch as can do it, they wiſh had never been admitted.

A CHARGE delivered by Brother THOMAS FRENCH, *G. S.* at the Initiation of a FREE-MASON.

BROTHER,

BEING now regularly initiated into this ſociety, permit me to offer to your ſerious conſideration, thoſe virtues that will always diſtinguiſh you among men, eſpecially Maſons.

The Holy Scriptures, the ſtandard of truth, and the unerring dictates of an unerring Being, I would recommend as the primary object of your attention.

Next, a general, an unlimited regard for men of virtue, honour and integrity, howſoever diſtinguiſhed by private perſuaſion; Maſonry wiſely removes ſuch diſtinctions, and by uniting all countries, ſects and principles into one inſeparable band of affection, conciliates true friendſhip, and effectuates the noble purpoſe of making each other happy, and rejoicing in each others felicity.

Hence diſputes on religion and politics are never ſuffered to interrupt the friendly intercourſe of our regular aſſemblies. Theſe are deſigned to improve the mind, correct the morals, and reform the judgment.

Your experience in life, has no doubt made familiar to you the three great duties of morality; to God; your neighbour; and yourſelf; which I hope your new character, as a Free-Maſon, will ſtill more deeply imprint upon your mind, and render your conduct not only regular and uniform, but in every other reſpect agreeable to the dignity of this laudable profeſſion.

As a Maſon, you are chearfully to conform to the government under which you live; to conſider the intereſt of the community as your own; and be ready on all occaſions to give proofs of loyalty to your Sovereign, and affection to your Country.

Benevolence and charity, being the renowned characteriſticks of Maſonry, you are to cheriſh and promote; and though you ought ever liberally to contribute to alleviate the miſeries of the wretched, yet you are more particularly to extend your pity to a poor Brother, whoſe unhappy circumſtances may oblige him to ſolicit your friendly aſſiſtance; ever remembering that period of your life, when you was introduced into Maſonry, ***** on which, if you but for a moment reflect, it cannot fail making you ſo far benevolent

volent as never to ſhut your ear unkindly to the complaints of the wretched. But when a poor Brother is oppreſſed by want, you will, in a particular manner, liſten to his ſufferings with attention, in conſequence of which, pity will flow from your breaſt, and relief according to your capacity.

The ſolemnity of our ceremonies, will ever require from you a ſerious deportment, and ſtrict attention to the elucidating of thoſe emblems and hieroglyphicks under which our myſteries are couched.

And as order and regularity cannot fail to render permanent the harmony of this lodge, it is expected you will be obedient to the Maſter and preſiding officers, and be particularly careful never to introduce any diſcourſe that may tend to violate your character, as a gentleman, or a Maſon, or to depreciate thoſe virtues that always adorn an honeſt mind.

If, therefore, from among your friends or acquaintance, you ſhould hereafter propoſe a candidate for our myſteries, I would earneſtly recommend, that you know him to be worthy; and never from a pecuniary or ungenerous motive, endeavour to introduce any but men of honour and integrity, whoſe character as well as principle, juſtly intitles him to the privileges of this fraternity.

To expatiate on the neceſſity of a cloſe application to the duties of Maſonry, will, I preſume, be needleſs, as I doubt not but your own experience will ſoon evince the real value and utility of this ſcience, and the excellency of its precepts.

I ſhall therefore conclude this addreſs, in a ſure expectation of your implicit obedience to the foregoing circumſtances, as well for your own honour, as the credit of this lodge, and that you will chearfully conform to all thoſe ſalutary laws which are, and ever have been, the eſtabliſhed baſis and ſupport of the royal art.

A PRAYER *at the Empointing of a Brother, used in the Reign of Edward IV.*

THE mighty GOD and Father of heaven, with the wisdom of his glorious Son, through the goodness of the Holy Ghost, that hath been three persons in one godhead, be with us at our beginning, give us grace to govern in our living here, that we may come to his bliss that shall never have an end.

A PRAYER *to be used at the Admission of a Brother.*

O Most glorious and eternal God, who art the Chief Architect of the created universe! grant unto us, thy servants, who have already entered ourselves into this most noble, antient, and honourable fraternity, that we may be

be ſolid and thoughtful, and always have a remembrance of thoſe ſacred and holy things we have taken on us, and endeavour to inſtruct and inform each other in ſecrecy, that nothing may be unlawfully or illegally obtained; and that this perſon, who is now to be made a Maſon, may be a worthy member, and may he, and all of us, live as men, conſidering the great end for which thy goodneſs has created us; and do thou, O God, give us wiſdom to contrive in all our doings, ſtrength to ſupport in all difficulties, and beauty to adorn thoſe heavenly manſions where thy honour dwells; and grant, O Lord, that we may agree together in Brotherly-love and charity one towards another; and in all our dealings in the world, do juſtice to all men, love mercy, and walk humbly with thee, our God; and, at laſt, may an abundant entrance be adminiſtered unto us, into thy kingdom, O great Jehovah. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, inviſible, the only wiſe God, be kingdom, power, and glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

ANOTHER PRAYER.

MOST holy and glorious Lord God, thou Architect of heaven and earth, who art the giver of all good graces: And hath promiſed that

that where two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou wilt be in the midſt of them: In thy name we aſſemble and meet together, moſt humbly beſeeching thee to bleſs us in all our undertakings, to give us thy holy ſpirit, to enlighten our minds with wiſdom and underſtanding, that we may know and ſerve thee aright, that all our doings may tend to thy glory, and to the ſalvation of our ſouls: And we beſeech thee, O Lord God, to bleſs this our preſent undertaking, and to grant that this our Brother may dedicate his life to thy ſervice, and be a true and faithful Brother among us: Endue him with divine wiſdom, that he may, with the ſecrets of Maſonry, be able to unfold the myſteries of Godlineſs and Chriſtianity.

This we humbly beg in the name, and for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

AS LAWS, ORDERS, and CONSTITUTIONS are essentially necessary to the establishment and support of every society, without which no society can long subsist with any degree of happiness, or reputation, the general laws and regulations of the Most Antient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, as set forth in the book of constitutions, are invariably to be observed by every private lodge, and every individual member of the fraternity. But for the better answering the purposes of particular lodges; to cement the union thereof; and to further the good intentions of those Brethren, who are disposed to

cultivate the Royal Craft, according to the antient ſplendour; the Grand Maſter of Maſons, hath permitted, and it hath ever been the uſage of the lodges to frame to themſelves ſuch bye-laws, as to the members of each particular lodge ſhall ſeem meet, provided that the antient land marks are preſerved inviolate, and that ſuch bye-laws be agreeable to the general regulations.

And as it frequently happens that new lodges are at a loſs for ſome aſſiſtance on theſe occaſions, the following form is offered for that purpoſe.

BYE-LAWS, for the regulation of the Lodge No. known by the name of of the *Moſt Antient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Maſons*, duly conſtituted the day of A. L. 5769. A. D. 1769, firſt held at

and now held at

Article 1. *Fixed, or Lodge Nights.*

That the lodge ſhall aſſemble on the third Friday in every month at ſeven o'clock in the evening; which ſhall be deemed general, or public lodge nights; but that the Right Worſhipful Maſter ſhall have power, as in times paſt, to convene a private lodge as often as he ſhall find it expedient.

Article

Article 2. *Election and Choice of Officers.*

That the election of a Maſter, as well as a Treaſurer, of this lodge, ſhall be half-yearly, *to wit*, at the public lodges held in June and December, by a majority of the members preſent, by ballot. That the Maſter elect, if preſent, ſhall on that night of election (if not at the next lodge night) appoint the two Wardens and Secretary. That the accounts of the Treaſurer ſhall be audited on the night of election, or ſo ſoon after as conveniently can, by the Maſter and Wardens for the time being, or by a committee for that purpoſe to be appointed; and the balance appearing to be due thereon, ſhall be paid by him to the Treaſurer elect, immediately after the accounts are ſo audited, or at the next public lodge night. That the tyler ſhall be elected by ballot, or holding up of hands of the members preſent, on every election night, or as often as there ſhall be occaſion, and ſhall be continued only during his good behaviour, and the pleaſure of the lodge.

Article 3. *Payment of Quarteridge.*

That every member of this lodge ſhall pay to the Treaſurer, for the uſe of the lodge, the annual ſubſcription of eighteen ſhillings, by quarterly payments, *viz.* the ſum of four ſhillings and ſixpence on the 1ſt lodge night after Chriſtmas,

the 1ſt lodge night after Lady-day, the 1ſt lodge night after Midſummer, and on the 1ſt lodge night after Michaelmas. And if any member ſhall neglect or refuſe to pay the ſame within three months from every ſuch quarter day, having had notice thereof from the Secretary, he ſhall be expelled as a member and excluded from viſiting this lodge, unleſs good cauſe be ſhewn to the Maſter and Brethren to induce a forbearance.

Article 4. *Makings.*

That every perſon deſirous of being made a Maſon in this lodge, ſhall be recommended and duly propoſed by a member in an open public lodge; when the Brother ſo propoſing him, ſhall depoſit half a guinea on account of his fees. And the Brother ſo propoſed ſhall be balloted for the next ſucceeding public lodge night, in which interval proper enquiry may be made into his character, and if on ſuch ballot there ſhall not appear *two* * black, or negative balls, he ſhall be initiated and admitted a member on paying to the Treaſurer the admiſſion fee, one guinea and a half, together with his ſubſcription in proportion to the time then to come in the current quarter; and alſo five ſhillings to

* In ſome lodges *three*, but in general *one* negative excludes.

the

the uſe of the grand or public fund of Maſons for his admiſſion and regiſtering fees: And if on a ballot he ſhould appear not to be admitted, the ſum depoſited when he was propoſed ſhall be returned to the Brother who propoſed him. And if he is approved on the ballot, and neglects to attend for admiſſion, *three* lodge nights, his depoſit ſhall, in that caſe, be forfeited to the lodge. And if any Brother ſhall be duly propoſed and admitted, who hath before been initiated into the firſt, or paſſed to the ſecond degree, in another regular lodge, he ſhall pay ſo much as together with what he hath already advanced for ſuch initiation, or paſs, as will amount to the ſum of one guinea and a half, provided that no ſuch Brother ſhall be paſſed or raiſed for leſs than half a guinea for each degree beſides his fee for regiſtering.

Article 5. *Admiſſion of Members.*

That no Brother ſhall be admitted a member of this lodge until he hath viſited us once at leaſt, and has been duly propoſed by a member in open lodge, which done he ſhall be balloted for at the next ſucceeding public lodge; and unleſs three negatives or black balls appear, ſhall be admitted on paying five ſhillings to the fund of the lodge, and two ſhillings and ſixpence to the grand fund for regiſtering his name, over and above his proportionable ſubſcription.

Article

Article 6. *Viſitors.*

That every viſiting Brother being a member of a regular lodge, ſhall pay on every viſit 1*s.* 6*d.* but if only of the lodge of St. JOHN ſhall pay 2*s.*

Article 7. *Maſter and Wardens to attend quarterly Communications and Committees of Charity.*

That the Maſter and Wardens, or their repreſentatives ſhall attend every committee of charity and quarterly communication at the expence of the lodge, and ſhall give to the fund of charity ſuch ſum, and ſo often, as the lodge ſhall agree to at the public lodge next preceding every quarterly committee.

Article 8. *Fund and Property of the Lodge veſted in Maſter and Wardens in truſt for the Lodge.*

That the caſh or fund as well as the jewels, furniture, and other things, belonging to this lodge or ſociety, ſhall be, and hereby is, veſted in and deemed, the property of the Maſter and Wardens for the time being, ſo that any action or ſuit that ſhall happen to be neceſſary for the preſervation or recovery of the ſame, or any part thereof, or of any of the arrears of quarteridge, may and ſhall be brought or commenced and proſecuted in their names, in truſt for the uſe and

and benefit of the lodge, and to be paid, applied and diſpoſed of as the majority of the members ſhall, in due form, from time to time, think proper to direct.

Article 9. *Enacting, abrogating or altering Laws.*

That when a motion ſhall be made for any new law, or the abrogating or altering of any old one, it ſhall firſt be handed up in writing to the Maſter, in order to be read and conſidered by him and the members preſent; and no new law, abrogation, or alteration of any old one, ſhall be valid unleſs the ſame be entered in the minutes, by the conſent of the majority of members preſent at one public lodge, and duly confirmed at the next.

Article 10. *Every Member to ſign and obey theſe and the conſtitutional Laws.*

That every member of this lodge ſhall ſign theſe laws, and ſhall obſerve and keep the ſame, and all ſuch as ſhall hereafter be enacted agreeable to the 8th article, as well as all the laws, orders and regulations laid down and preſcribed in and by the laſt edition of the book of conſtitutions of Maſonry, and ſuch as ſhall hereafter be made and publiſhed by the authority of the grand lodge,

The

The above laws ſettled and approved of at a public lodge held the day of are now duly enacted and confirmed at another public lodge, held this day of A. L. 5769. A. D. 1769. witneſs the hands of us the following officers and Brethren.

The

From the following general Collection, Lodges may furniſh themſelves with ſuitable Laws, according to their various Circumſtances.

Law 1. *Time of Meeting.*

THAT the members of this lodge ſhall meet every and in each month at the hour of ſix from Michaelmas to Lady-day, and at the hour of ſeven from Lady-day to Michaelmas. And that every member ſhall come into the lodge decently cloathed in ſuch attire as is ſuitable to his rank, quality, and condition in life; always remembering that he can never aſſociate himſelf with better company than Brothers and Fellows.

2. *Opening the Lodge.*

When a ſufficient number of members ſhall be aſſembled, the Maſter, or in his abſence, a proper perſon ſhall immediately open the lodge and proceed to buſineſs. And if the Maſter, ei-

either of the Wardens, or other officer of the lodge, who, in virtue of his office, is intituled to keep a key or keys, ſhould not attend the lodge in proper time, and neglect to ſend the ſame, whereby the buſineſs of the lodge ſhall be retarded, ſuch Brother ſhall forfeit the ſum of

3. *Cloſing the Lodge.*

As nothing has a greater tendency to bring the craft into diſrepute than keeping late hours on lodge nights, the Maſter ſhall be acquainted by the S. W. when it is o'clock, and ſhall immediately proceed to cloſe the lodge; either of them failing herein ſhall forfeit the ſum of and any member who is in the lodge (and not being a traveller or lodger in the houſe) remaining in the ſame houſe after o'clock, ſhall alſo forfeit the ſum of It is hoped and expected that no member will offend againſt this law, calculated to ſecure the honour and harmony of the lodge, to prevent uneaſineſs to our relatives at home, and to preſerve the œconomy of our families.

4. *Liquors and Supper.*

All liquors drank at ſupper, on lodge nights, ſhall be charged to the lodge, but liquors called for before lodge hours, unleſs on account of makings, &c. ſhall not be charged to the lodge.

No

No perſon ſhall be permitted to ſup in the lodge room during lodge hours.

5. *Admiſſion of Maſons or Members.*

That no perſon be ſuffered or admitted to be made a Free and Accepted Maſon in this lodge, or if a Maſon, to be a member thereof, unleſs well known to one or more members, to be a man of virtuous principles and integrity, and not a bondſman; and ſuch as by their own conſent, are deſirous to become Brethren; it being contrary to our eſtabliſhed conſtitution, to perſuade or engage thereto, and it is hereby recommended to every good Maſon, and particularly to the Brethren of this lodge, that they be careful whom they recommend as candidates for Maſonry, that they may not bring ſcandal, or diſreputation on the craft.

6. *Making, paſſing and raiſing.*

No perſon ſhall be made a Maſon in this lodge without firſt paying into the hands of the Treaſurer, two guineas; for which, if he proves a worthy member of our ſociety, he ſhall be intituled to the three degrees without further expence: But if any one made a Maſon in this lodge ſhall afterwards prove an unworthy member of the craft, by treating it diſreſpectfully either by words or actions; leading an immoral and

ſcandalous life, ſuch perſons ſhall not be intituled to any further degree in this lodge.

And whereas the craft hath ſuffered greatly in its reputation and happineſs by the admiſſion of low and inferior perſons, no ways fit to become members of our antient and honourable inſtitution, whereby men of rank, quality, knowledge and education, are oft deterred from aſſociating with their Brethren at their public meetings: It is hoped every Brother who is deſired to propoſe any perſon, will be particularly careful, that he is one, in all reſpects, ſuitable to the venerable ſociety he is to become a member of; one whoſe temper and diſpoſition may cement the harmony of the lodge, and whoſe conduct and circumſtances in life, are ſuch as may not tend to diminiſh the credit of it. When a perſon is propoſed, it ſhall be mentioned at the bottom of the next ſummons (which ſhall iſſue at leaſt three days before the lodge night) that each member may be prepared to approve or reject ſuch candidate; alſo the ſame practice, and for the ſame reaſon, ſhall be obſerved with regard to paſſing or raiſing a Brother.

7. Who proper to be admitted an honorary Member and when diſcontinued.

That no one member of this lodge be admitted an honorary member, unleſs his avocations fre-

quently call him out of town; or his place of abode be at too great a diſtance to attend conſtantly: In either of the above caſes it may be diſpenſed with by a majority of members preſent; but ſuch an honorary member cannot be choſe into any office, ſpeak, vote, or otherwiſe concern himſelf with the buſineſs of the lodge. Such Brother ſhall be admitted each night on the ſame terms as the members, and may have the privilege of becoming a member without any further fine, on his being firſt propoſed and balloted for, and negatives not appearing againſt him upon caſting up the ſame. If a Brother ſhall diſcontinue himſelf a member, from the time the meſſage, letter or motion is ſent or made, he ſhall not vote, or otherwiſe concern himſelf with the buſineſs of the lodge; but if their ſhould happen to be any more lodge nights in the quarrer after ſuch motion, he ſhall have a right to be admitted to the end of the quarter he has paid up to.

8. *Time for Re-admiſſion of a Member.*

That any member having diſcontinued himſelf from this lodge and paid his arrears, may, on application, and paying five ſhillings, be readmitted (provided negatives do not appear againſt him) and any ſea-faring member, or one whoſe buſineſs obliges him to leave town, ſhall be excuſed paying his quarteridge from

from the time of his departure till his arrival in London, firſt having ſignified the ſame to the lodge, and paid up his arrears.

9. *Election of Officers.*

New officers ſhall be elected on the lodge-nights before the feſtivals of St. JOHN the Baptiſt and St. JOHN the Evangeliſt, each member having notice for that purpoſe in his lodge-letter. In the choice of a Maſter, his abilities muſt be preferred to his ſeniority. The Maſter, Treaſurer, and Secretary, ſhall be elected by ballot, but no Brother ſhall be elected Maſter who has not ſerved the office of Warden, or Maſter, at leaſt one half year, in ſome regular lodge; and no officer ſhall be elected to ſerve a ſecond time againſt his inclination. The new Maſter ſhall be inveſted by the old Maſter in due form, who ſhall be allowed a charge before he quits the chair. The new Maſter ſhall then appoint a Senior Warden*; but, that the Maſter may not have too much authority in this reſpect, the Senior Warden ſhall appoint a Junior Warden, and they ſhall be both inveſted by the Maſter, as well as the Treaſurer and Secretary, in due form. The old Treaſurer and Secretary are then to lay a ſtate of their accounts before the lodge, which, if approved of by the ma-

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* This is rarely the practice, moſt Maſters appointing both Wardens, and alſo the Secretary.

jority,

jority, ſhall be deemed a regular paſſing of their accounts. The Maſter ſhall be allowed two ſhillings and ſixpence when he attends the committee of charity for this lodge, and five ſhillings when he attends with the Wardens at a quarterly communication.

10. *Stewards appointed and their Duty.*

That the Maſter do on the night of his election, appoint two diſcreet Brethren, to act as ſtewards of the lodge, who ſhall attend conſtantly, except when hindered by illneſs or urgent buſineſs; in which caſe, the Maſter ſhall appoint whom he thinks proper to ſupply their place, *pro tempore*; they ſhall continue in their office till the next election night. Their buſineſs ſhall be to ſee that the viſitors are properly accommodated; that the tables be properly ſupplied, and to keep an account of the ſame, which they ſhall compare with the houſe bill at the cloſing of the lodge. If any Brother ſhall order in any wine, &c. after the ſtewards have cloſed their accounts, what is ſo ordered, ſhall be at the ſaid Brother's own coſt and charge.

11. *Laws when to be read.*

That upon every election night the Maſter ſhall cauſe theſe laws to be read to the lodge, immediately before they proceed to the ballot for a new Maſter.

12. *Bal-*

12. *Balloting.*

No member ſhall be permitted to ballot in any matter relating to this lodge until he has paid his full quarteridge up to the next quarter-day in which ſuch ballot is to be made; and, in all ballots, the Maſter of the lodge ſhall be intituled to a caſting vote upon an equality of numbers.

13. *Not to diſcover a Perſon rejected.*

That when any Brother is propoſed to become a member, or any perſon to be made a Maſon, if it appear, upon caſting up the ballot, that they are rejected, no member, or viſiting Brother ſhall diſcover, by any means whatſoever, who thoſe members were that oppoſed his election, under the penalty of ſuch Brother's being for ever expelled the lodge (if a member) and, if a viſiting Brother, of his being never more admitted as a viſitor or becoming a member; and immediately after a negative paſſes on any perſons being propoſed, the Maſter ſhall cauſe this law to be read, that no Brother preſent may plead ignorance.

14. *Debates, Complaints, Queſtions, &c. to be addreſſed to the Chair.*

That in all debates concerning the affairs of this lodge, complaints made, or queſtions that may

may ariſe, every Brother ſhall ſtand up while he ſpeaks, and addreſs himſelf to the Maſter in the chair; if more than one Brother ſhall ſtand up at one time to ſpeak, the Maſter ſhall order the firſt who ſtood up to proceed, and the reſt ſhall immediately ſit down and be ſilent, till ſuch Brother has done ſpeaking; and that no member be allowed to ſpeak twice on one ſubject, unleſs to explain himſelf, and the Maſter ſhall think it expedient.

15. *Penalty for ſpeaking diſreſpectfully of the Lodge, &c.*

That any Brother who is known to have ſpoken diſreſpectfully of the ſociety in general, or this lodge in particular, ſhall not be admitted a member, or as a viſitor, until he has made ſuch conceſſion as may be thought ſatisfactory.

16. *Penalty for breaking the Laws.*

That if a Brother break any of theſe rules and orders, the Maſter, with the majority of the Brethren (if they think fit) ſhall lay a fine, not exceeding five ſhillings, on the Brother ſo offending; which fine, as well as all others, ſhall go to the fund of the lodge; and the Brother refuſing to pay ſuch fine, ſhall for ever be excluded this lodge.

17. *Landlord detaining Letters.*

That the landlord of the houſe (where this lodge is held) ſhall immediately, upon the receipt of any letter or meſſage left with him for the Right Worſhipful Maſter, forward it to him; and upon his neglect or refuſal, ſhall forfeit to this lodge the ſum of five ſhillings.

18. *Landlords.*

Great inconveniencies having ariſen to lodges, by landlords being the proprietors of the furniture, &c. no landlord, or maſter of the houſe where this lodge ſhall be held, ſhall be permitted to have any other ſhare in the furniture, &c. of the lodge than as an individual member; according to the direction of the grand lodge.

19. *Diſguiſed in Liquor, ſwearing, &c. the Penalties.*

That no Brother do preſume to ſwear, come into the lodge intoxicated, or on any account call for wine or other liquors, but addreſs himſelf to the ſtewards or wardens, who, if they think it neceſſary, will give their orders accordingly. That all Brethren do behave themſelves with decency to each other, and with reſpect to the Maſter in the chair and preſiding officers; and in caſe of default in either of theſe particulars, the Brother ſo offending ſhall forfeit the ſum of two ſhillings and ſixpence to the fund of the lodge.

20. *Pre-*

20. *Preſents.*

That all preſents made to this lodge be entered in the lodge book, with the Brother's name from whom ſuch benevolence flowed, in token of his eſteem for Maſonry in general, and this lodge in particular; and alſo that the Maſter, for the time being, or his Secretary, ſhall take care to enter the ſame accordingly.

SOLOMON's TEMPLE:

A N

ORATORIO.

As it was performed at the Philharmonic Room, in Dublin, for the Benefit of ſick and diſtreſſed Free-Maſons.

The Words by Mr. James Eyre Weeks.
The Muſic compoſed by Mr. Richard Broadway, *Organiſt of* St. Patrick's *Cathedral.*

SOLOMON, the Grand Maſter.
HIGH PRIEST.
HIRAM, the Workman.
URIEL, Angel of the Sun.
SHEBA, Queen of the South.
Chorus of Prieſts and Nobles.

SOLOMON.

RECITATIVE.

CONven'd we're met—chief oracle of heav'n,
To whom the ſacred myſteries are giv'n,
We're met to bid a ſplendid fabrick riſe,
Worthy the mighty Ruler of the ſkies.

HIGH

HIGH PRIEST.

And lo! where Uriel, Angel of the Sun,
Arrives to ſee the mighty buſineſs done.

AIR.

Behold he comes upon the wings of light,
And with his ſunny veſtment chears the ſight.

URIEL.

RECITATIVE.

The Lord ſupreme, Grand Maſter of the ſkies!
Who bid creation from a chaos riſe,
The rules of architecture firſt engrav'd
On Adam's heart.

Chorus of the Prieſts and Nobles.

To heaven's High Architect all praiſe,
All gratitude be giv'n,
Who deign'd the human ſoul to raiſe,
By ſecrets ſprung from heav'n.

SOLOMON.

RECITATIVE.

Adam, well vers'd in arts,
Gave to his ſons the Plumb and Line;
By Maſonry, ſage Tubal Cain
To the deep organ tun'd the ſtrain.

AIR.

And while he ſwell'd the melting note,
On high the ſilver concords float.

HIGH

HIGH PRIEST.

RECITATIVE, accompany'd.

Upon the ſurface of the waves,
(When God a mighty deluge pours)
Noah a choſen remnant ſaves,
And laid the ark's ſtupendous Floors.

URIEL.

AIR.

Hark from on high the Maſon word,
" David my ſervant, ſhall not build
"A lodge for heaven's all Sov'reign Lord ;
" Since blood and war have ſtain'd his ſhield,
" That for the Deputy, his ſon,
" We have reſerv'd—Prince Solomon. *Da Capo.*

Chorus for Prieſts and Nobles.

Sound great JEHOVAH's praiſe !
Who bid young Solomon the temple raiſe.

SOLOMON.

RECITATIVE.

So Grand a Structure ſhall we raiſe,
That men ſhall wonder ! Angels gaze !
By art divine it ſhall be rear'd,
Nor ſhall the hammer's noiſe be heard.

CHORUS.

Sound great JEHOVAH's praiſe !
Who bid king SOLOMON the temple raiſe.

URIEL.

URIEL.

RECITATIVE.

To plan the mighty dome,
HIRAM, the Maſter-Maſon's come.

URIEL.

AIR.

We know thee, by thy apron white,
An architect to be.
We know thee, by thy trowel bright,
Well ſkill'd in Maſonry.
We know thee, by thy jewel's blaze,
Thy manly walk and air.
Inſtructed, thou the lodge ſhalt raiſe;
Let all for work prepare.

HIRAM.

AIR.

Not like Babel's haughty building,
Shall our greater lodge be fram'd;
That to hideous jargon yielding,
Juſtly was a Babel nam'd;
There confuſion, all o'er-bearing,
Neither ſign, nor word they knew,
We, our work with order ſquaring,
Each proportion ſhall be true.

SOLOMON.

RECITATIVE.

Cedars, which ſince creation grew,
Fall of themſelves to grace the dome;
All Lebanon, as if ſhe knew
The great occaſion—lo, is come!

URIEL.

URIEL.

AIR.

Behold, my Brethren of the ſky,
The work begins, worthy an angel's eye.

Chorus of Prieſts and Nobles.

Be preſent all ye heavenly hoſt,
The work begins—The Lord defrays the coſt!

ACT II.

MESSENGER.

RECITATIVE.

BEHOLD, attended by a num'rous train,
Queen of the ſouth, fair *Sheba*, greets thy reign!
In admiration of thy wiſdom, ſhe
Comes to preſent the bended knee.

SOLOMON to HIRAM,

RECITATIVE.

Receive her with a fair ſalute;
Such as with majeſty may ſuit.

HIRAM.

AIR.

When allegiance bids obey,
We with pleaſure own its ſway.

Enter SHEBA *attended.*

Obedient to ſuperior greatneſs, ſee,
Our ſcepter hails thy mightier Majeſty.

Thus

Thus PHEBE, Queen of ſhade and night,
  Owning the ſun's ſuperior rays,
With feebler glory, leſſer light
  Attends the triumph of his blaze.
Oh, all-excelling Prince, receive
  The tribute due to ſuch a King!
Not the gift, but will, believe!
  Take the heart, not what we bring. *D. C.*

SOLOMON.

RECITATIVE.

Let meaſures ſoftly ſweet
Illuſtrious SHEBA's preſence greet.

SOLOMON.

AIR.

Tune to the lute and ſtring the lyre,
  Equal to the fair we ſing!
Who can ſee and not admire
  SHEBA, conſort for a King!
Enlivening wit and beauty join,
  Melting ſenſe and graceful air,
Here united powers combine
  To make her brighteſt of the fair. *D. C.*

SOLOMON.

RECITATIVE.

Hiram, our Brother and our friend,
Do thou the Queen with me attend.

SCENE II. *A View of the Temple.*

HIGH PRIEST.

RECITATIVE.

Sacred to heaven behold the dome appears;
Lo, what auguſt ſolemnity it wears;
Angels themſelves have deign'd to deck the frame,
And beauteous SHEBA ſhall report its fame.

AIR.

When the Queen of the ſouth ſhall return
To the climes which acknowledge her ſway,
Where the ſun's warmer beams fiercely burn,
The Princeſs with tranſport ſhall ſay,
Well worthy my journey, I've ſeen
A Monarch both graceful and wiſe,
Deſerving the love of a Queen;
And a temple well worthy the ſkies. *D. C.*

CHORUS.

Open, ye gates, receive a Queen who ſhares
With equal ſenſe your happineſs and cares.

HIRAM.

RECITATIVE.

Of riches much, but more of wiſdom, ſee,
Proportion'd workmanſhip and Maſonry.

HIRAM.

AIR.

Oh! charming SHEBA, there behold,
What maſſy ſtores of burniſh'd gold,
Yet richer is our art;

Not

Not all the orient gems that ſhine,
Nor treaſures of rich Ophir's mine,
Excel the Maſon's heart;
True to the fair, he honours more,
Than glitt'ring gems or brighteſt ore,
The plighted pledge of love;
To ev'ry tie of honour bound,
In love and friendſhip conſtant found,
And favour'd from above.

SOLOMON and SHEBA.

DUET.

SHEBA.

One gem beyond the reſt I ſee,
And charming SOLOMON is he.

SOLOMON.

One gem beyond the reſt I ſee,
Faireſt of fair-ones, thou art ſhe.

SHEBA.

Oh thou ſurpaſſing all men wiſe;

SOLOMON.

And thine excelling womens eyes.

HIRAM.

RECITATIVE.

Wiſdom and beauty both combine
Our art to raiſe, our hearts to join.

CHORUS.

Give to MASONRY the prize,
Where the faireſt chooſe the wife:
Beauty ſtill ſhould wiſdom love;
Beauty and order reign above.

Some of the uſual FREE-MASONS SONGS.

The Maſter's Song, by Dr. ANDERSON.

In the firſt Book it is in five Parts, comprehending the Hiſtory *of* Maſonry; *but being too long, the third Part is only printed here.*

1.

WE ſing of Maſons antient fame!
Lo, eighty thouſand craftſmen riſe
Under the Maſters of great name,
More than three thouſand juſt and wiſe.
Employ'd by SOLOMON, the Sire,
And general Maſter Maſon too,
As HIRAM was in ſtately Tyre,
Like Salem built by Maſons true.

2.

The Royal art was then divine,
The craftſmen counſell'd from above,
The temple was the grand deſign,
The wond'ring world did all approve.
Ingenious men from every place
Came to ſurvey the glorious pile;
And when return'd, began to trace
And imitate its lofty ſtile.

3.

At length the Grecians came to know
Geometry, and learn'd the art
Pythagoras was rais'd to ſhow,
And glorious Euclid to impart:
Great Archimedes too appear'd,
And Carthaginian Maſters bright;
Till Roman citizens uprear'd
The art, with wiſdom and delight.

4.

But when proud Aſia they had quell'd,
And Greece and Egypt overcome,
In architecture they excell'd,
And brought the learning all to Rome:
Where wiſe Vitruvius, Warden prime,
Of architects, the art improv'd
In great Auguſtus' peaceful time,
When arts and artiſts were belov'd.

5.

They brought the knowledge from the *eaſt*,
And as they made the nations yield,
They ſpread it through the *north* and *weſt*,
And taught the world the art to build.
Witneſs their citadels and tow'rs,
To fortify their legions fine,
Their temples palaces and bow'rs
That ſpoke the Maſons grand deſign.

Thus

6.

Thus mighty eaſtern Kings and ſome
  Of Abraham's race, and Monarchs good
Of Egypt, Syria, Greece, and Rome,
  True architecture underſtood.
No wonder then if Maſons join
  To celebrate thoſe Maſon-Kings,
With ſolemn note and flowing wine,
  Whilſt every Brother jointly ſings.

C H O R U S.

Who can unfold the royal art,
  Or ſhew its *ſecrets* in a ſong?
They're ſafely kept in Maſon's heart,
  And to the antient lodge belong!

To the King and the Craft.

II. *The* Warden's *Song, by the ſame Author.*

In the firſt Book it was of thirteen Verſes, too long; but the laſt Verſe and Chorus is thought enough to be ſung.

FROM henceforth ever ſing,
  The Craftſman and the King,
With poetry and muſic ſweet
Reſound their harmony compleat,
And with geometry in ſkilful hand
  Due homage pay,
  Without delay,

To noble BEAUFORT, now our Maſter Grand.
He rules the freeborn ſons of art
By love and friendſhip, hand and heart.

Chorus of the Wardens Song.

Who can rehearſe the praiſe
In ſoft poetic lays,
Or ſolid proſe, of Maſons true,
Whoſe art tranſcends the common view?
Their ſecrets ne'er to ſtrangers yet expos'd,
Preſerv'd ſhall be
By Maſons Free,
And only to the antient lodge diſclos'd;
Becauſe they're kept in Maſons heart
By Brethren of the royal art.

To the Grand Maſter.

III. *The* FELLOW CRAFT's *Song.*
By Brother Charles de la Fay, *Eſq;*

I.

HAIL Maſonry! thou craft divine!
Glory of earth! from heaven reveal'd!
Which doth with jewels precious ſhine,
From all but Maſons eyes conceal'd.

CHORUS.

Thy praiſes due who can rehearſe,
In nervous proſe or flowing verſe?

As

2.

As men from brutes diſtinguiſh'd are,
A Maſon other men excels ;
For what's in knowledge choice and rare
But in his breaſt ſecurely dwells ?

CHORUS.

His ſilent breaſt *and faithful* heart,
Preſerve the ſecrets *of the* art.

3.

From ſcorching heat and piercing cold,
From beaſts whoſe roar the foreſt rends,
From th' aſſaults of warriors bold
The Maſons art mankind defends.

CHORUS.

Be to this art *due honour paid,*
From which mankind receives ſuch aid.

4.

Enſigns of ſtate that feed our pride,
Diſtinctions troubleſome and vain,
By Maſons true are laid aſide,
Art's freeborn ſons ſuch toys diſdain.

CHORUS.

Ennobled by the name *they bear,*
Diſtinguiſh'd by the badge *they wear.*

5.

Sweet fellowſhip from envy free,
Friendly converſe of Brotherhood
The lodge's laſting cement be,
Which has for ages firmly ſtood.

CHO-

CHORUS.

A lodge thus built for ages paſt
Has laſted, and ſhall ever laſt.

6.

Then in our ſongs be juſtice done
To thoſe who have inrich'd the art,
From ADAM to great BEAUFORT down,
And let each Brother bear a part.

CHORUS.

Let noble Maſons healths go round,
Their praiſe in lofty lodge reſound.

To the deputy Grand Maſter and Grand Wardens.

IV. The Enter'd 'PRENTICE's *Song;*

By Brother Matthew Birkhead, *deceaſed.*

To be ſung after grave buſineſs is over.

COME let us prepare,
We Brothers that are
Aſſembled on merry occaſion;
Let's drink, laugh and ſing,
Our wine has a ſpring,
Here's a health to an Accepted Maſon.

All charged.

The world is in pain
Our ſecrets to gain,
And ſtill let them wonder and gaze on;
Till they're ſhewn the light,
They'll ne'er know the right
Word or ſign of an Accepted Maſon.

'Tis this and 'tis that,
They cannot tell what,
Why ſo many great men of the nation,
Should aprons put on
To make themſelves one,
With a Free and an Accepted Maſon.

Great Kings, Dukes and Lords
Have laid by their ſwords,
Our myſt'ry to put a good grace on,
And ne'er been aſham'd
To hear themſelves nam'd
With a Free and an Accepted Maſon.

Still firm to our truſt,
In friendſhip we're juſt,
Our actions we guide by our reaſon:
By obſerving this rule,
The paſſions move cool
Of a Free and an Accepted Maſon.

All idle debate
About church or the ſtate,
The ſprings of impiety and treaſon;
Theſe raiſers of ſtrife
Ne'er ruffle the life
Of a Free and an Accepted Maſon.

Antiquity's pride
We have on our ſide,
Which adds high renown to our ſtation:
There's nought but what's good
To be underſtood
By a Free and an Accepted Maſon.

The clergy embrace,
And all Aaron's race,
Our ſquare actions their knowledge to place on;
And in each degree
They'll honoured be
With a Free and an Accepted Maſon.

We're true and ſincere
And juſt to the fair;
They'll truſt us on any occaſion;
No mortal can more
The ladies adore,
Than a Free and an Accepted Maſon.

Then join hand in hand,
By each Brother firm ſtand,
Let's be merry and put a bright face on:
What mortal can boaſt
So noble a toaſt,
As a Free and an Accepted Maſon?

C H O R U S.

No mortal can boaſt
So noble a toaſt,
As a Free and an Accepted Maſon.

[Thrice repeated in due form.]

To all the Fraternity round the globe.

V. The deputy GRAND MASTER's Song.

N. B. *Every two laſt lines of each verſe is the chorus.*

ON, on, my dear Brethren, purſue your great lecture,
And refine on the rules of old architecture:

High honour to Maſons the craft daily brings,
To thoſe Brothers of Princes and fellows of Kings.
We drove the rude Vandals and Goths off the ſtage
Reviving the art of AUGUSTUS' fam'd age;
And Veſpaſian deſtroy'd the vaſt temple in vain,
Since ſo many now riſe in great BEAUFORT'S
mild reign.
The noble five orders compos'd with ſuch art,
Will amaze the fixt eye and engage the whole heart:
Proportion's ſweet harmony gracing the whole,
Gives our work, like the glorious creation, a ſoul.
Then Maſter and Brethren, preſerve your great
name
This lodge ſo majeſtick will purchaſe you fame;
Rever'd it ſhall ſtand till all nature expire,
And its glories ne'er fade till the world is on fire.
See, ſee, behold here, what rewards all our toil,
Inſpires our genius and bids labour ſmile:
To our noble Grand Maſter let a bumper be
crown'd,
To all Maſons a bumper ſo let it go round.
Again, my lov'd Brethren, again let it paſs,
Our antient firm union cements with the glaſs;
And all the contention 'mongſt Maſons ſhall be,
Who better can work, or who better agree.

VI. *The* Grand Warden's Song, by Brother *Oates*.

LET Maſonry be now my theme,
Thro'out the globe to ſpread its fame,
And eternize each worthy Brother's name.

Your

Your praiſe ſhall to the ſkies reſound,
In laſting happineſs abound,
And with ſweet union all your noble deeds be crown'd. } Repeat this line.

CHORUS.

Sing then, my muſe, to Maſons *glory,*
Your names are ſo rever'd in ſtory,
That all th' admiring world do now adore ye!

Let harmony divine inſpire
Your ſouls with love and gen'rous fire,
To copy well wiſe SOLOMON, your Sire,
Knowledge ſublime ſhall fill each heart,
The rules of g'ometry t' impart,
While wiſdom, ſtrength and beauty crown the glorious art. } Repeat this line.

Chorus. *Sing then, my muſe,* &c.

All charged.

Let noble BEAUFORT's health go round,
In ſwelling cups all cares be drown'd,
And hearts united 'mongſt the craft be found.
May everlaſting ſcenes of joy,
His peaceful hours of bliſs employ,
Which time's all-conquering hand ſhall ne'er, ſhall ne'er deſtroy. } Repeat this line.

Chorus. *Sing then, my muſe,* &c.

My Brethren, thus all cares reſign,
Your hearts let glow with thoughts divine,
And veneration ſhew to SOLOMON's ſhrine.

Our

Our annual tribute thus we'll pay
That late poſterity ſhall ſay,
We've crown'd with joy this glorious, *hap-*
py, happy day. } All ſing.

CHORUS.

Sing then, my muſe, to Maſons *glory,*
Your names are ſo rever'd in ſtory,
That all the admiring world do now adore ye.

To all the noble Lords that have been Grand Maſters.

VII. The TREASURER's Song.

N. B. *The two laſt lines of each verſe is a chorus.*

GRANT me, kind heaven, what I requeſt,
In Maſonry let me be bleſt,
Direct me to that happy place
Where friendſhip ſmiles in every face;
Where freedom and ſweet innocence
Enlarge the mind and chear the ſenſe.

Where ſcepter'd reaſon from her throne
Surveys the lodge, and makes us one;
And harmony's delightful ſway
For ever ſheds ambroſial day;
Where we bleſt Eden's pleaſure taſte,
Whilſt balmy joys are our repaſt.

No prying eye can view us here,
No fool or knave diſturb our chear;
Our well-form'd laws ſet mankind free,
And give relief to miſery:

The

The poor oppres'd with woe and grief,
Gain from our bounteous hands relief.

Our lodge the ſocial virtues grace,
And wiſdom's rules we fondly trace;
Whole nature open to our view,
Points out the paths we ſhould purſue.
Let us ſubſiſt in laſting peace,
And may our happineſs increaſe.

To all charitable Maſons.

VIII. The SWORD-BEARER's Song.

N. B. *The laſt two lines of each verſe is the chorus.*

TO all who Maſonry deſpiſe,
This counſel I beſtow:
Don't ridicule, if you are wiſe,
A ſecret you don't know.
Yourſelves you banter, but not it,
You ſhew your ſpleen, but not your wit.
With a Fa, la, la, la, la.

Inſpiring virtue by our rules,
And in ourſelves ſecure,
We have compaſſion for thoſe fools,
Who think our acts impure:
We know from ignorance proceeds
Such mean opinion of our deeds.
With a Fa, &c.

If union and ſincerity
Have a pretence to pleaſe,

We

We Brothers of Free-Maſonry
Lay juſtly claim to theſe.
To ſtate-diſputes we ne'er give birth,
Our motto friendſhip is, and mirth.
With a Fa, &c.

Then let us laugh, ſince we've impos'd
On thoſe who make a pother,
And cry the ſecret is diſclos'd
By ſome falſe-hearted Brother:
The mighty ſecret's gain'd, they boaſt,
From poſt-boy and from flying-poſt.
With a Fa, la, la, la, la.

To all Maſters and Wardens of regular lodges.

IX. An ODE to the FREE-MASONS.

N. B. *The two laſt lines of each verſe is the chorus.*

BY Maſons art th' aſpiring domes
In ſtately columns ſhall ariſe:
All climates are their native homes,
Their learned actions reach the ſkies.
Heroes and Kings revere their name,
While poets ſing their laſting fame.

Great, Noble, Gen'rous, Good and Brave,
Are titles they moſt juſtly claim;
Their deeds ſhall live beyond the grave,
Which thoſe unborn ſhall loud proclaim.
Time ſhall their glorious acts enrol,
While love and friendſhip charm the ſoul.
To the laſting honour of Free-Maſons.

X. An

X. An ODE to MASONRY, by Brother J. BANCKS.

N. B. *The two laſt lines of each verſe is the chorus.*

GENIUS of Maſonry deſcend,
In myſtic numbers while we ſing;
Enlarge our ſouls, the craft defend,
And hither all thy influence bring,
With ſocial thoughts our boſoms fill,
And give thy turn to every will.

While yet Batavia's wealthy pow'rs
Neglect thy beauties to explore;
And winding Seine, adorn'd with tow'rs,
Laments thee wand'ring from his ſhore;
Here ſpread thy wings, and glad theſe iſles,
Where arts reſide, and freedom ſmiles.

Behold the lodge riſe into view,
The work of induſtry and art;
'Tis grand, and regular, and true,
For ſo is each good Maſon's heart.
Friendſhip cements it from the ground,
And ſecrecy ſhall fence it round.

A ſtately dome o'erlooks our eaſt,
Like orient Phœbus in the morn;
And two tall pillars in the weſt
At once ſupport us and adorn.
Upholden thus the ſtructure ſtands,
Untouch'd by ſacrilegious hands.

For concord form'd, our ſouls agree,
  Nor fate this union ſhall deſtroy :
Our toils and ſports alike are free,
  And all is harmony and joy.
So SALEM's temple roſe by rule,
Without the noiſe of noxious tool.

As when AMPHION tun'd his ſong,
  E'en rugged rocks the muſic knew ;
Smooth'd into form, they glide along,
  And to a THEBES the deſart grew :
So at the ſound of HIRAM's voice
We riſe, we join, and we rejoice.

Then may our vows to virtue move,
  To virtue own'd in all her parts :
Come, candour, innocence and love,
  Come and poſſeſs our faithful hearts :
Mercy, who feeds the hungry poor,
And ſilence, guardian of the door.

As thou ASTRÆA (tho' from earth,
  When men on men began to prey,
Thou fled'ſt to claim celeſtial birth)
  Down from Olympus wing thy way ;
And mindful of thy antient ſeat,
Be preſent ſtill where Maſons meet.

Immortal ſcience too be near,
  (We own thy empire o'er the mind)
Dreſs'd in thy radiant robes appear,

With

With all thy beautious train behind;
Invention young and blooming there,
Here geometry with rule and ſquare.

In Egypt's fabric* learning dwelt,
And Roman breaſts could virtue hide:
But Vulcan's rage the building felt,
And BRUTUS, laſt of Romans, dy'd:
Since when, diſpers'd the ſiſters rove,
Or fill paternal thrones above.

But loſt to half of human race,
With us the virtues ſhall revive;
And, driv'n no more from place to place,
Here ſcience ſhall be kept alive:
And manly taſte, the child of ſenſe,
Shall baniſh vice and dulneſs hence.

United thus, and for theſe ends,
Let ſcorn deride, and envy rail;
From age to age the craft deſcends,
And what we build ſhall never fail:
Nor ſhall the world our works ſurvey;
But every Brother keeps the key!

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* The PTOLMÆAN LIBRARY.

[The following Songs were not in the London Edition of this Book, but ſelected from other Collections, and here added, for the Benefit of the SUBSCRIBERS.]

SONG XI.

I.

KING Solomon, that wiſe projector,
In Maſonry took great delight;
And Hiram, that great architector,
Whoſe actions ſhall ever ſhine bright:
From the heart of a true honeſt Maſon,
There's none can the ſecret remove;
Our maxims are juſtice, morality,
Friendſhip and Brotherly-love.
Fa, la, la, &c.

II.

We meet like true friends on the ſquare,
And part on a level that's fair;
Alike we reſpect King and beggar,
Provided they're juſt and ſincere:
We ſcorn an ungenerous action,
None can with Free-Maſons compare;
We love for to live within compaſs,
By rules that are honeſt and fair.
Fa, la, la, &c.

III.

Succeſs to all Accepted Maſons,
There's none can their honour pull down;

For

For e'er ſince the glorious creation,
Theſe brave men were held in renown:
When Adam was King of all nations,
He form'd a plan with all ſpeed;
And ſoon made a ſweet habitation,
For him and his companion Eve.
Fa, la, la, &c.

IV.

We exclude all talkative fellows,
That will babble and prate paſt their wit;
They ne'er ſhall come into our ſecret,
For they're neither worthy nor fit:
But the perſons that's well recommended,
And we find them honeſt and true;
When our lodge is well tyl'd we'll prepare 'em,
Like Maſons our work we'll purſue.
Fa, la, la, &c.

V.

There's ſome fooliſh people reject us,
For which they're highly to blame;
They cannot ſhew any objection,
Or reaſon for doing the ſame:
The art's a divine inſpiration,
As all honeſt men will declare;
So here's to all true-hearted Brothers,
That live within compaſs and ſquare.
Fa, la, la, &c.

To all thoſe who live within compaſs and ſquare.

S O N G XII.

A Maſon's daughter, fair and young,
The pride of all the virgin throng,

Thus

Thus to her lover ſaid ;
Though, Damon, I your flame approve,
Your actions praiſe, your perſon love,
Yet ſtill I'll live a maid.

None ſhall untie my virgin zone,
But one to whom the ſecret's known,
Of fam'd Free-Maſonry ;
In which the great and good combine,
To raiſe, with generous deſign,
Man to felicity.

The lodge excludes the fop and fool,
The plodding knave and party tool,
That liberty would ſell ;
The noble, faithful, and the brave,
No golden charms can e'er deceive,
In ſlavery to dwell.

This ſaid, he bow'd, and went away ;
Apply'd, was made without delay,
Return'd to her again :
The fair one granted his requeſt,
Connubial joys their days have bleſt,
And may they e'er remain.

S O N G XIII.

ONCE I was blind and cou'd not ſee,
And all was dark me round,
But providence provided me,
And ſoon a friend I found ;

Thro'

Thro' hidden paths my friend me led,
Such paths as bablers ne'er ſhall tread.
With a Fa, la, la, la, la, la.

He took all ſtumbling blocks away,
That I might walk ſecure,
And brought me long ere break of day
To Sol's bright temple door,
Where we both admittance found,
By help of magic, ſpell and ſound.
With a Fa, la, &c.

The curber of my raſh attempt,
Did then my breaſt alarm,
And hinted I was not exempt,
Nor free from double harm;
Which put a ſtop to riſing pride,
And made me truſt more to my guide.
With a Fa, la, &c.

With ſober pace I then was led,
And brought to Sol's bright throne;
Where I was oblig'd to ſtop,
Till I myſelf made known;
With hideous noiſe I round was brought,
For to obtain that which I ſought.
With a Fa, la, &c.

In humble poſture and due form,
I liſt'ned with good will;
Inſtead of mighty noiſe and ſtorm,
All then was calm and ſtill,

Such

Such charming ſounds I then did hear,
As quite expell'd all doubts and fear.
With a Fa, la, &c.

The guardian of this myſtic charm,
In ſhining jewels dreſt;
Said, that I need to fear no harm,
If faithful was my breaſt;
For though to rogues he was ſevere,
No harm an honeſt man need fear.
With a Fa, la, &c.

Bright Wiſdom from his awful throne,
Bid darkneſs to withdraw;
No ſooner ſaid but it was done,
And then—great things I ſaw;
But what they were—I now won't tell,
But ſafely in my breaſt ſhall dwell.
With a Fa, la, &c.

Then round and round me he did tie
An antient noble charm;
Which future darkneſs will defy,
And ward of cowans harm;
With inſtruments in number three,
To learn the art of GEOMETRY.
With a Fa, la, &c.

SONG XIV.

YE thrice happy few,
Whoſe hearts have been true,
In concord and unity found;

Let

Let us ſing and rejoice,
And unite ev'ry voice,
To ſend the gay chorus around.

CHORUS.

Like pillars we ſtand,
An immoveable band,
Cemented by power from above;
Then freely let paſs the generous glaſs,
To Maſonry, friendſhip and love.

The Grand Architect,
Whoſe word did erect
Eternity, meaſure, and ſpace,
Firſt laid the fair plan
Whereon we began,
The cement of harmony and peace.
Chor. Like pillars we ſtand, &c.

Whoſe firmneſs of hearts
Fair treaſure of arts,
To the eye of the vulgar unknown;
Whoſe luſtre can beam
New dignity and fame
To the pulpit, the bar and the throne.
Chor. Like pillars we ſtand, &c.

The great David's ſon,
Unmatch'd Solomon,
As recorded in ſacred page,
Through Maſonry became
The firſt fav'rite of fame,
The wonder and pride of his age.
Chor. Like pillars we ſtand, &c.

Indiſſoluble bands
Our hearts and our hands,
In ſocial benevolence bind;
For true to his cauſe,
By immutable laws,
A Maſon's a friend to mankind.
Chor. Like pillars we ſtand, &c.

Let joy fly around,
And peace, olive-bound,
Preſide at our myſtical rites:
Whoſe conduct maintains
Our auſpicious domains,
And freedom with order unites,
Chor. Like pillars we ſtand, &c.

Nor let the fair maid,
Our myſteries dread,
Or think them repugnant to love;
To beauty we bend,
And her empire defend,
Her empire deriv'd from above.
Chor. Like pillars we ſtand, &c.

Then let us unite,
Sincere and upright,
On the level of virtue to ſtand:
No mortal can be
So happy as we,
With a Brother and friend in each hand.
Chor. Like pillars we ſtand, &c.

S O N G XV.

A Health to our ſiſters let's drink;
For why ſhould not they
Be remember'd, I pray,
When of us they ſo often do think;
When of us they ſo often do think.

'Tis they give the chiefeſt delight;
Though wine chears the mind,
And Maſonry's kind,
Theſe keeps us in tranſports all night.
Theſe keeps us in tranſports all night.

S O N G XVI.

ASSEMBL'D and tyl'd, let us ſocial agree,
With the Monarch that ſits on the throne,
For he charges a glaſs, and round let it paſs,
To celebrate antient St. John.

Tho' bablers may prattle in ſhewing their ſpleen,
Their ſpite we compare to the drone,
For in ſweet harmony, in love we'll agree,
To celebrate antient St. John.

The world's in pain our ſecrets to gain,
In ignorance let them think on,
For in ſweet harmony in love we'll agree,
To celebrate antient St. John.

With toaſt after toaſt let us drink to the King,
Rememb'ring the great Solomon,
For his actions were rare, by the compaſs and
ſquare,
Thus celebrate antient St. John.

Then join hand in hand, in a body firm ſtand,
Our cares and our troubles be gone,
Let us love, laugh and ſing, love the ladies and
King,
Thus celebrate antient St. John.

S O N G XVII.

WE have no idle prating,
Of either *Whig* or *Tory*;
But each agrees,
To live at eaſe,
And ſing or tell a ſtory.

C H O R U S.

Fill to him,
To the brim,
Let it round the table roll;
The divine,
Tells you wine,
Cheers the body and the ſoul.

We're always men of pleaſure,
Deſpiſing pride and party;
While knaves and fools,
Preſcribe us rules,
We are ſincere and hearty.
Chor. Fill to him, &c.

If an Accepted Maſon,
Shou'd talk of high or low church;
We'll ſet him down,
A ſhallow crown,
And underſtand him no church.
Chor. Fill to him, &c.

The world is all in darkneſs,
About us they conjecture ;
But little think,
A ſong and drink,
Succeeds the Maſons lecture.
Chor. Fill to him, &c.

Then, landlord, bring a hogſhead,
And in the corner place it ;
Till it rebound,
With hollow ſound,
Each Maſon here will face it.
Chor. Fill to him, &c.

To the memory of him who firſt planted a vine.

S O N G XVIII.]

A Maſon one time
Was caſt for a crime,
Which malice had put a bad face on ;
And then, without thought,
To a gibbet was brought
The Free and the Accepted Maſon.
And then, without thought, &c.

And when he came there,
He put up his pray'r,
For heav'n to pity his caſe on !
His King he eſpy'd,
Who in progreſs did ride,
Was a Free and an Accepted Maſon.
His King he eſpy'd &c.

Then out a ſign flew,
Which the Grand Maſter knew,
Who rode up to know the occaſion:
Aſk'd who had condemn'd
So worthy a friend
As a Free and an Accepted Maſon.
Aſk'd who had condemn'd, &c.

He tried the cauſe,
And he found out the flaws,
According to juſtice and reaſon.
He tuck'd up the judge,
And all that bore grudge,
To the Free and the Accepted Maſon.
He tuck'd up the judge, &c.

Though ignorant pride
Our ſecrets deride,
Or fooliſh conjectures occaſion,
They ne'er ſhall divine
The word or the ſign
Of a Free and an Accepted Maſon.
They ne'er ſhall divine, &c.

May honour and honeſty ever diſtinguiſh the Brethren.

SONG XIX.

COME follow, follow me,
Ye joval Maſons Free;
Come follow all the rules
That e'er was taught in ſchools,
By Solomon, that Maſon King,
Who honour to the craft did bring.

He's

He's juſtly call'd the wiſe,
His fame doth reach the ſkies,
  He ſtood upon the ſquare,
  And did the temple rear;
With true level, plumb and gage,
He prov'd the wonder of the age.

The mighty Maſon Lords
Stood firmly to their words,
  They had it in eſteem,
  For which they're juſtly deem'd:
Why ſhould not their example prove
Our preſent craft to live in love?

The Royal Art, and Word,
Is kept upon record,
  With upright hearts and pure,
  While ſun and moon endure:
Not written, but indented on
The heart of every Free-Maſon.

And as for Hiram's art
We need not to impart,
  The ſcripture plainly ſhows
  From whence his knowledge flows;
His genius was ſo much refin'd,
His peer he has not left behind.

Then let not any one
Forget the widow's ſon,
  But toaſt his memory
  In glaſſes charg'd full high,
And when our proper time is come,
Like Brethren part, and ſo go home.

A Tranſ-

A Tranſlation of the Latin, in the deſcription of the Banquetting Hall of the lodge at Marſeilles; for the benefit of ſuch of my readers as are unacquainted with that tongue.

The MASONS at Marſeilles have erected this monument of their affection to their moſt beloved King.

Fidelity to God, our King and Country.

Prudence.	Charity.
Fortitude.	Fidelity.
Pardon.	Filial debt.
Patience.	Paternal love.
Humility.	Obedience.
Friendſhip.	Alms-giving.
Piety.	Hoſpitality.

Here virtue, wiſdom, beauty fix'd their ſeat,
Love joins their hearts, and piety the tie.
Here peace we give, and here by turns receive,
One equal law of high and low the lot.

The Maſter, Vice-Maſter, and whole body of the Maſons of Marſeilles have erected theſe different examples of the virtues and monuments of fraternal liberality, propoſed to the imitation of their Brethren; to the honour of the Supreme Architect of the whole world; in the year of light 5765.

F I N I S.

Alex. Mercer

A*MERCER

-29531-

April, 1944
Worman

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